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NO. 43



# HOUSE of SECRETS

*"The COURT of CREATURES!"*

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SACRED SHRINE!  
FOR THIS THE  
PENALTY IS--  
**DEATH!**



A  
**MARK  
MERLIN**  
MYSTERY





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HE CAME FROM SOME FAR-DISTANT PLANET... A BRUTE IN MIND AND BODY... A CUNNING CRIMINAL WHOM NO POWER ON EARTH COULD STOP! YET, IT WAS AN ORDINARY HUMAN, WHO, BY A STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, GAINED MASTERY OVER...

# the CAPTIVE from GIANT SPACE

AS LONG AS THIS ENER-RAY IS ON, THE ALIEN GIANT MUST OBEY MY COMMAND!

BUT I WILL SOON TURN THE TABLES ON YOU, EARTHMAN!

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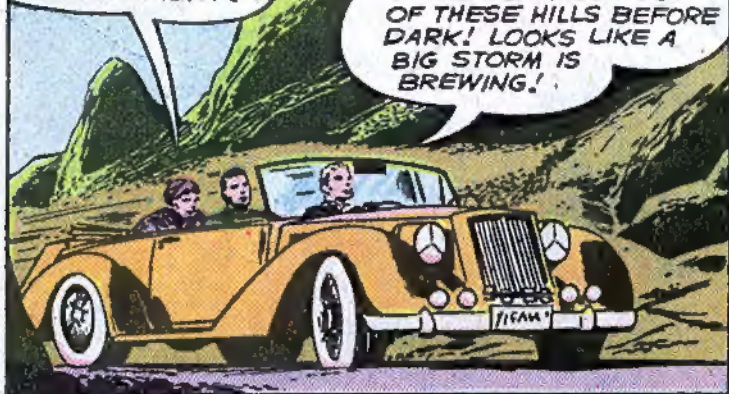
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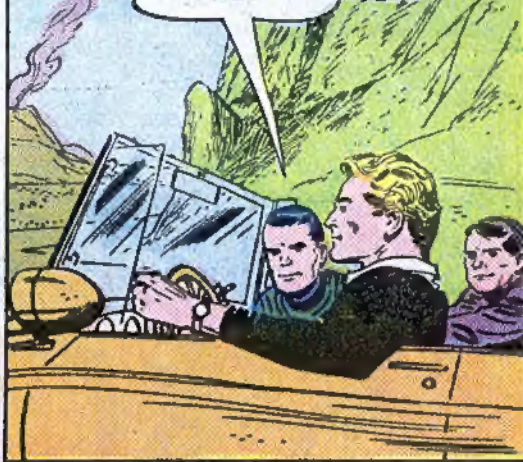
AN OMINOUS STILLNESS BLANKETS A WIDE AREA IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, AS THREE AMERICANS SPEED ALONG A NARROW ROAD...

WHAT A VACATION! I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE GONE TO AFRICA FOR SOME EXCITEMENT!

YOU'LL GET MORE EXCITEMENT THAN YOU BARGAINED FOR, IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF THESE HILLS BEFORE DARK! LOOKS LIKE A BIG STORM IS BREWING!

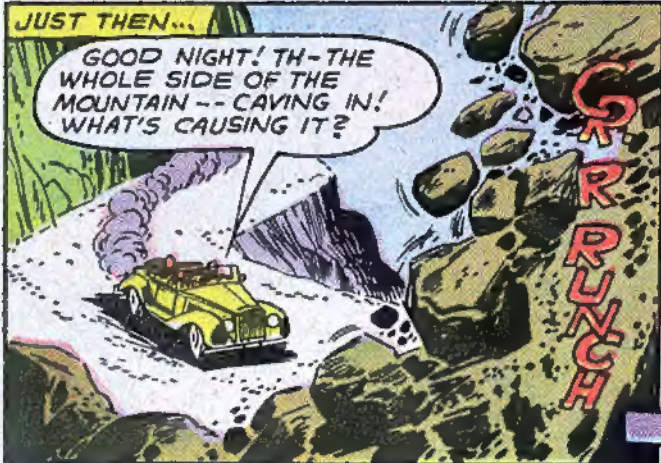


WHAT'S MORE, I UNDERSTAND THE VOLCANO ON MORZNEY ISLAND HAS BEEN THREATENING TO ERUPT! BETTER STEP ON IT, PAL!



JUST THEN...

GOOD NIGHT! TH-THE WHOLE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN -- CAVING IN! WHAT'S CAUSING IT?



THE INCREDIBLE ANSWER COMES NEXT MOMENT...

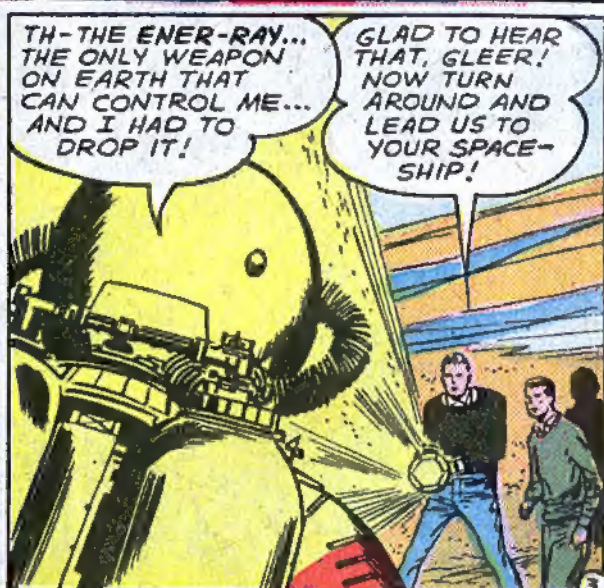
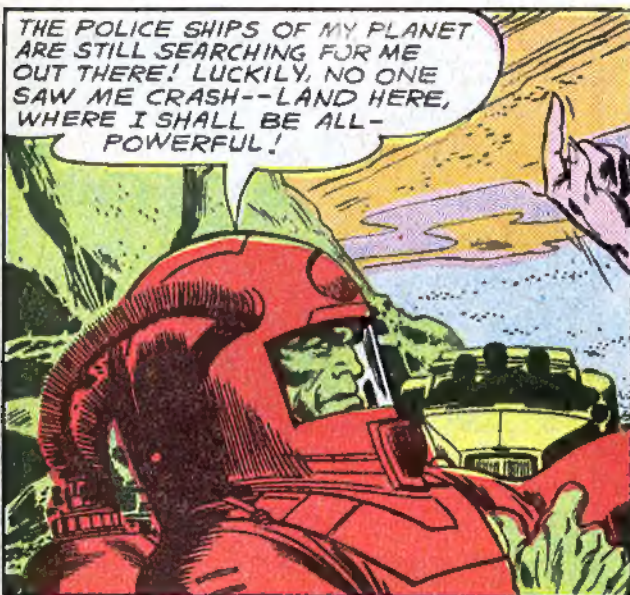


GREAT THUNDER! WH-WHERE DID HE COME FROM? WHAT IS HE?

LET ME REPLY, VIA MY SPEECH CONVERTER! MY NAME IS GLEER... ON MY WORLD I WAS A CRIMINAL, CONDEMNED TO PRISON! I MANAGED TO ESCAPE IN A STOLEN SPACE-SHIP!





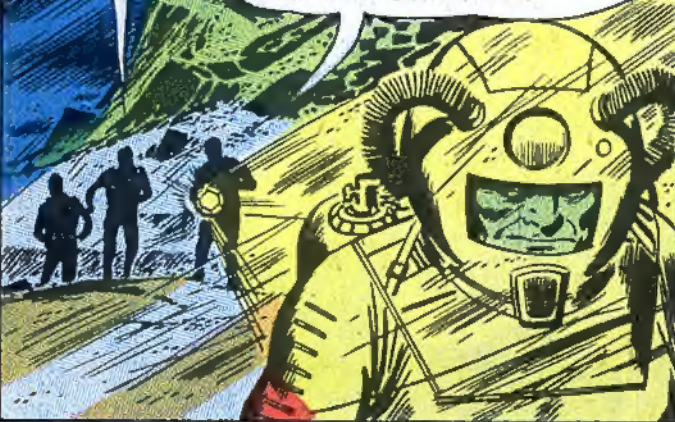




AS THE STRANGE PROCESSION STARTS...

LET'S NOT LOSE HIM, STU... IT'S GETTING DARK!

THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE STORM BREWING! IT'S STILL EARLY... ONLY ABOUT -- OH, NO!... I BROKE MY WATCH CRYSTAL SOMEHOW!

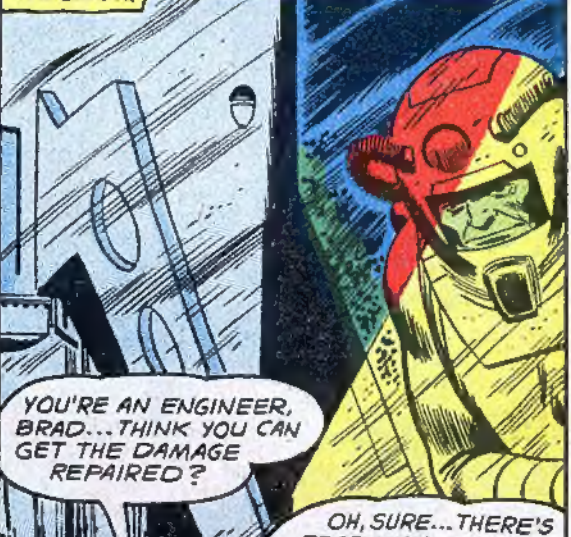


AS SOON AS THIS SHIP IS AIRWORTHY, I'LL FORCE GLEER TO TAKE OFF-- AND LET THOSE SEARCHING ALIEN COPS TAKE CARE OF THE REST!

GOOD IDEA... I'LL HOP ON IT RIGHT AWAY!



SHORTLY, BEHIND A DENSE PATCH OF WOODS...



YOU'RE AN ENGINEER, BRAD... THINK YOU CAN GET THE DAMAGE REPAIRED?

OH, SURE... THERE'S PROBABLY A TOOL KIT INSIDE THE SHIP! BUT WHAT GIVES?



JUST THEN...

LOOK, STU! THE STORM RIPPED OUT A BIG CHUNK OF THAT RAILROAD TRACK... AND HERE COMES A TRAIN!

GREAT SCOTT!... THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THAT TRAIN IN TIME!



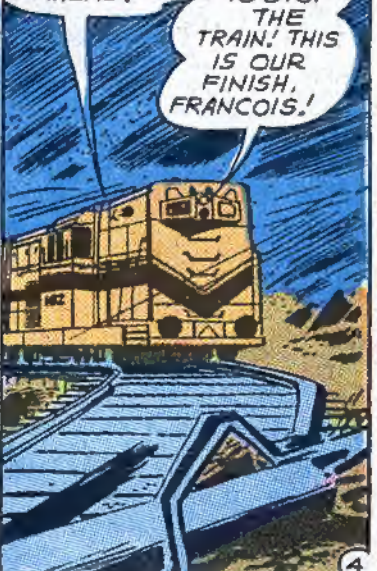
HMM-- MAYBE NOT... BUT I'VE GOT ANOTHER IDEA! KEEP WORKING ON THE SHIP, BRAD... AND YOU, GLEER-- GET A MOVE ON!



MINUTES LATER, AS THE TRAIN THUNDERS TOWARD SURE DOOM...

THE TRACKS HAVE BEEN WASHED OUT AHEAD!

WE ARE TOO CLOSE TO STOP THE TRAIN! THIS IS OUR FINISH, FRANCOIS!



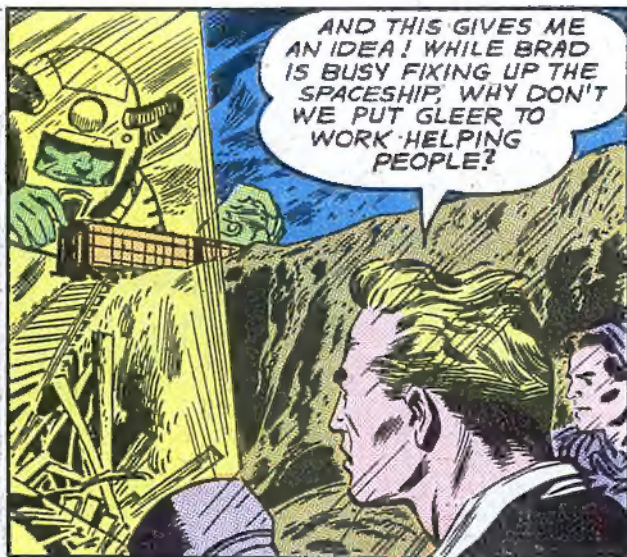


BUT NEXT INSTANT, A FANTASTIC FEAT OCCURS, AS...



NOT BAD, EH, WILLY? I MADE GLEER PICK UP THE TRAIN AND LEAP ACROSS THE CHASM WITH IT!

BOY-OH-BOY! WHY DIDN'T I BRING MY CAMERA ALONG!?



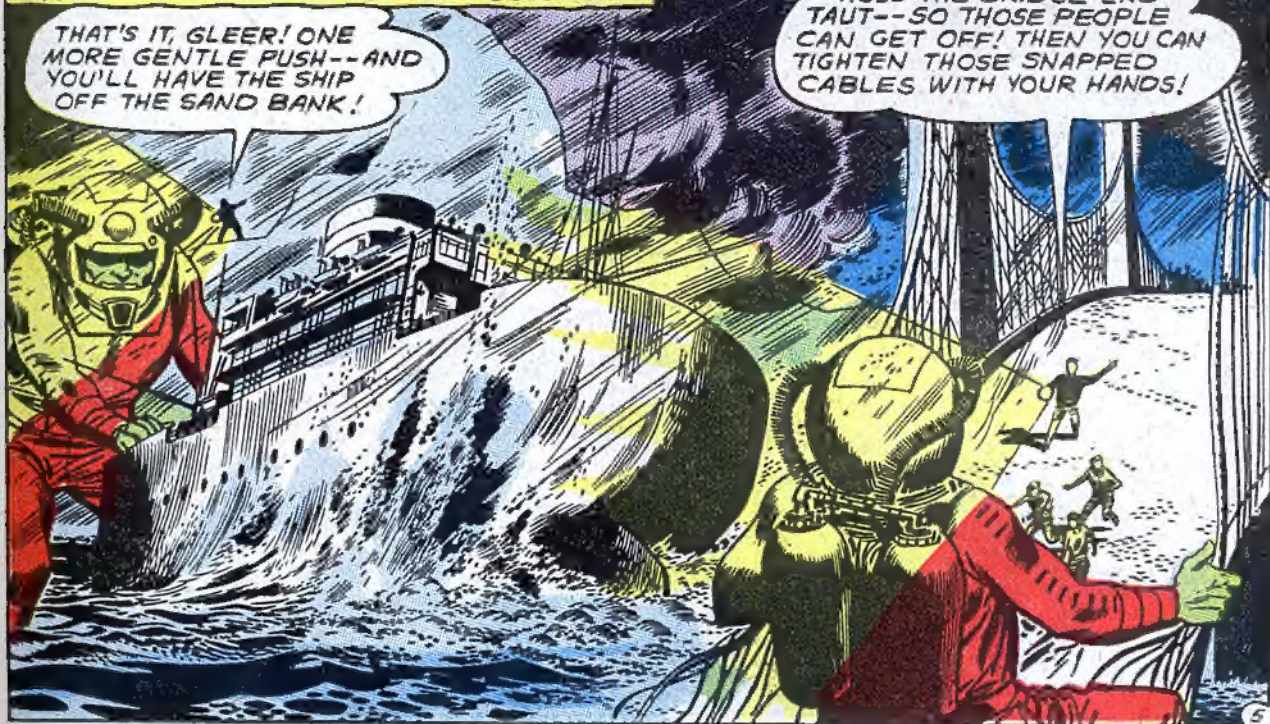
AND THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA! WHILE BRAD IS BUSY FIXING UP THE SPACESHIP, WHY DON'T WE PUT GLEER TO WORK HELPING PEOPLE?



IT'LL PROBABLY KILL THIS OUTER-SPACE PUNK TO PERFORM GOOD DEEDS-- BUT WHY NOT?

THE WAY THIS STORM IS BLOWING UP, A LOT OF FOLKS WILL PROBABLY FIND THEMSELVES IN BAD TROUBLE!

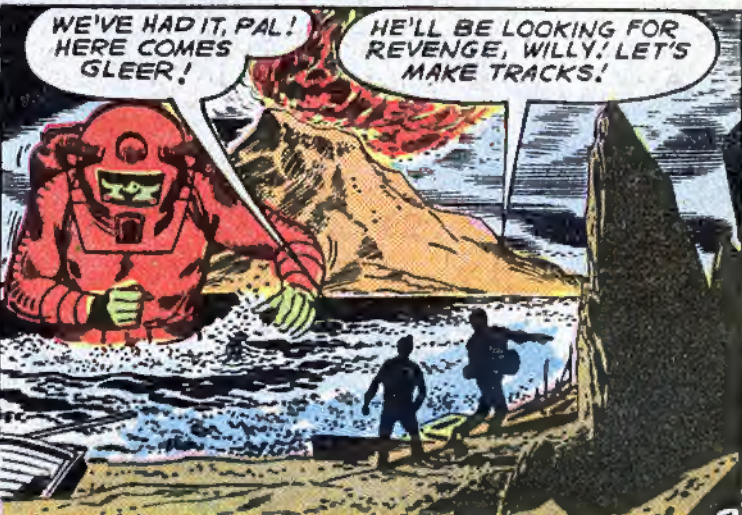
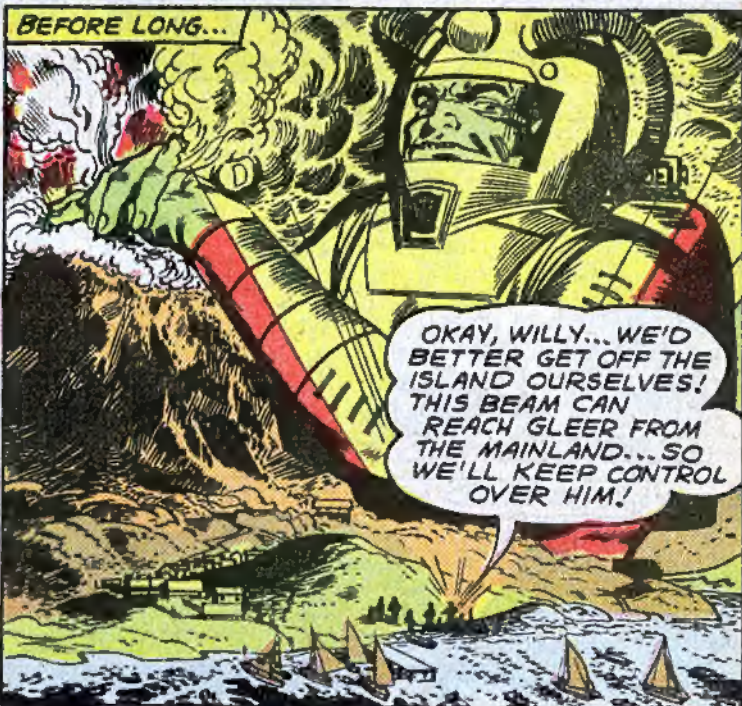
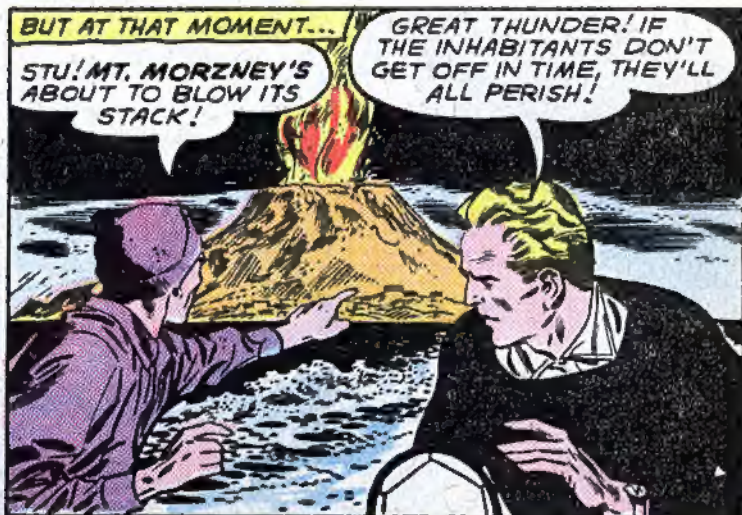
SO, IN THE CROWDED HOURS THAT FOLLOW...



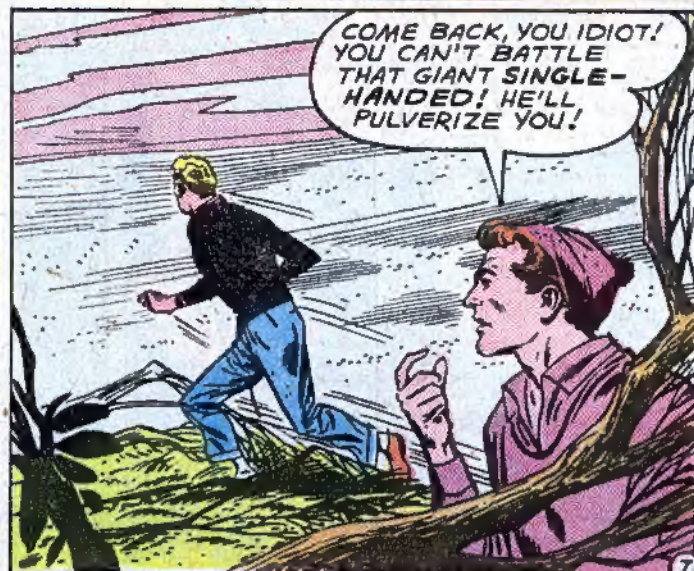
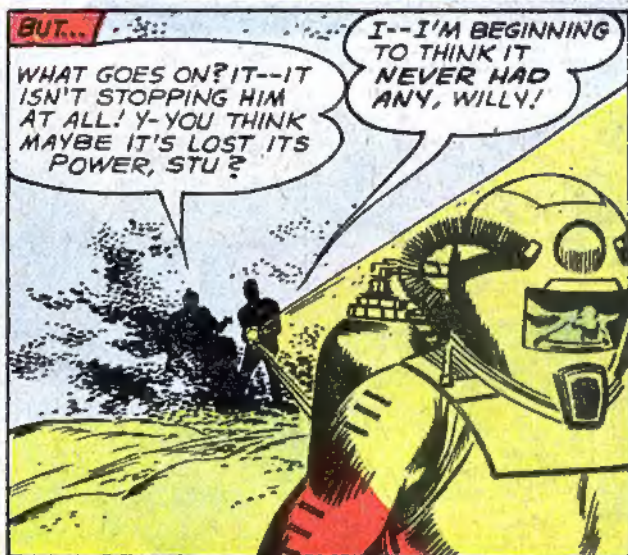
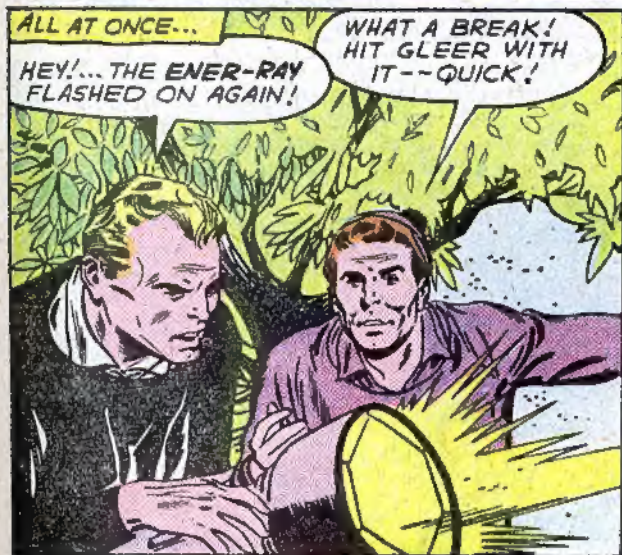
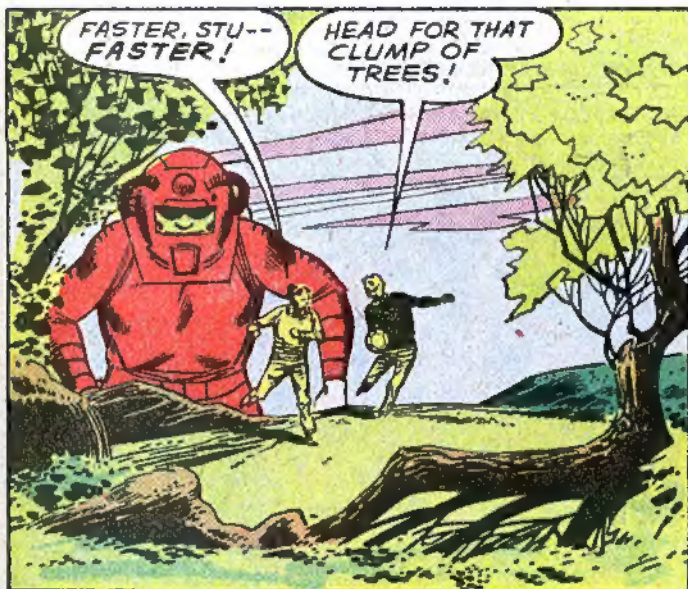
THAT'S IT, GLEER! ONE MORE GENTLE PUSH--AND YOU'LL HAVE THE SHIP OFF THE SAND BANK!

HOLD THE BRIDGE END TAUT--SO THOSE PEOPLE CAN GET OFF! THEN YOU CAN TIGHTEN THOSE SNAPPED CABLES WITH YOUR HANDS!





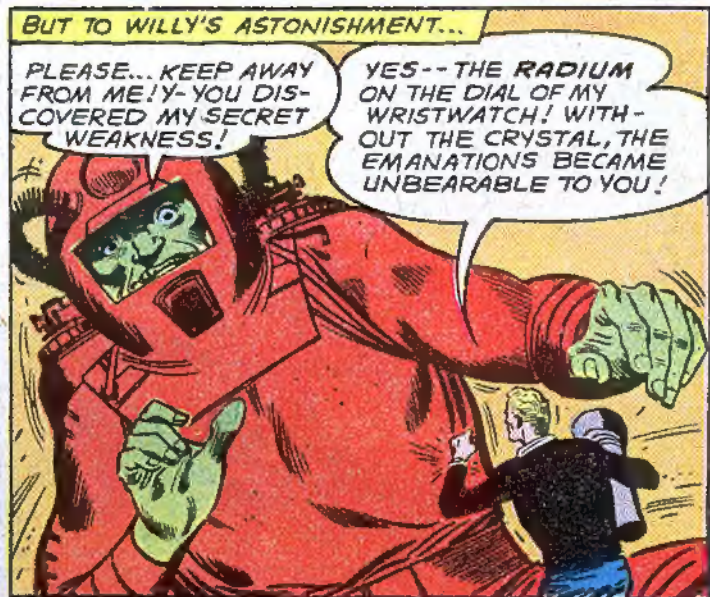








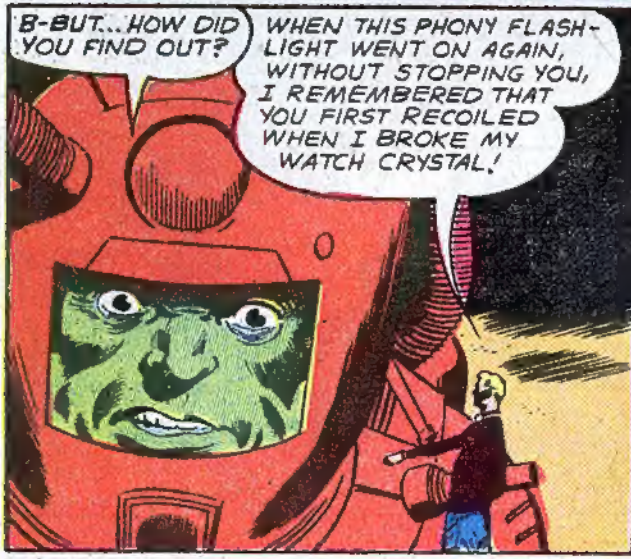
OH, NO!... HE'S GONE LOCO!



BUT TO WILLY'S ASTONISHMENT...

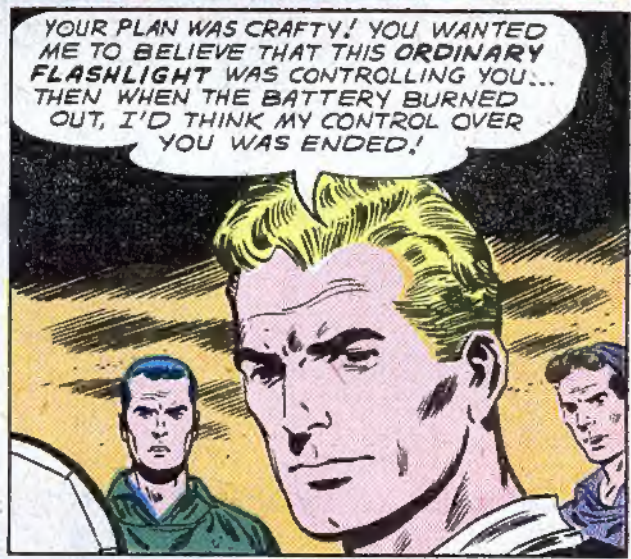
PLEASE... KEEP AWAY FROM ME! Y-YOU DISCOVERED MY SECRET WEAKNESS!

YES-- THE RADIUM ON THE DIAL OF MY WRISTWATCH! WITHOUT THE CRYSTAL, THE EMANATIONS BECAME UNBEARABLE TO YOU!

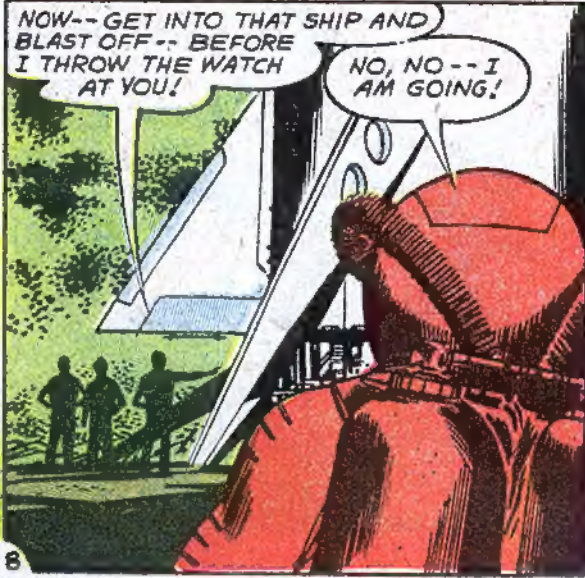


B-BUT... HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

WHEN THIS PHONY FLASHLIGHT WENT ON AGAIN, WITHOUT STOPPING YOU, I REMEMBERED THAT YOU FIRST RECOILED WHEN I BROKE MY WATCH CRYSTAL!

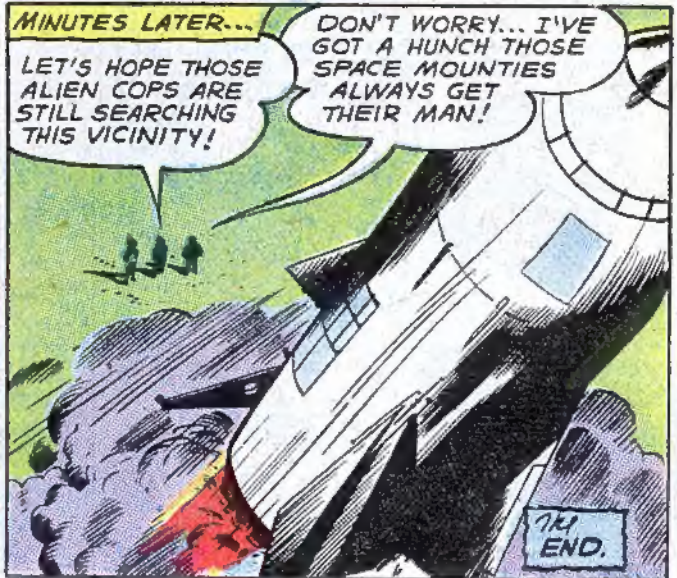


YOUR PLAN WAS CRAFTY! YOU WANTED ME TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ORDINARY FLASHLIGHT WAS CONTROLLING YOU... THEN WHEN THE BATTERY BURNED OUT, I'D THINK MY CONTROL OVER YOU WAS ENDED!



NOW-- GET INTO THAT SHIP AND BLAST OFF-- BEFORE I THROW THE WATCH AT YOU!

NO, NO-- I AM GOING!



MINUTES LATER...

LET'S HOPE THOSE ALIEN COPS ARE STILL SEARCHING THIS VICINITY!

DON'T WORRY... I'VE GOT A HUNCH THOSE SPACE MOUNTIES ALWAYS GET THEIR MAN!

THE END.



# ANIMAL TIME-SENSE!



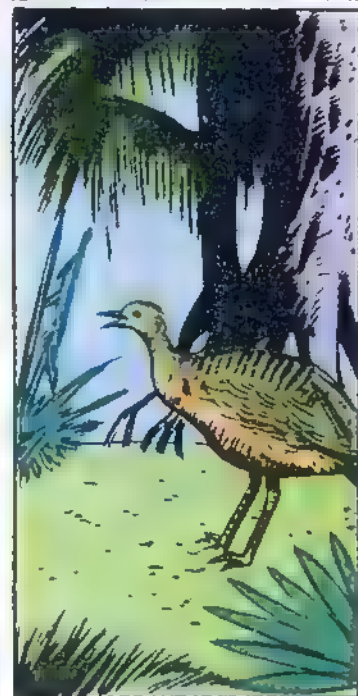
A **WREN** WAS OBSERVED TO CHIRP ITS FIRST NOTE BETWEEN 5:57 AND 5:58 EVERY MORNING, TWO COMPANION WRENS WOULD NEVER UTTER A SOUND UNTIL THE FIRST WREN'S CHIRP-AND THEN PROMPTLY JOIN THE WREN IN SONG.



PRECISELY AT 7:A.M. and 4:30 P.M. EVERY DAY A WELL-TRAINED FARM DOG WENT OFF TO FETCH THE COWS FROM PASTURE TO BE MILKED. LATER, WHEN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME WENT INTO EFFECT, THE CONFUSED DOG KEPT LEAVING AN HOUR LATE, AND HAD TO BE RETRAINED...



THE **PILEATED TINAMOU**, A WILD FOWL BIRD FOUND IN PANAMA, IS KNOWN AS THE "THREE-HOUR BIRD," BECAUSE IT SINGS AT THREE-HOUR INTERVALS DAY AND NIGHT.



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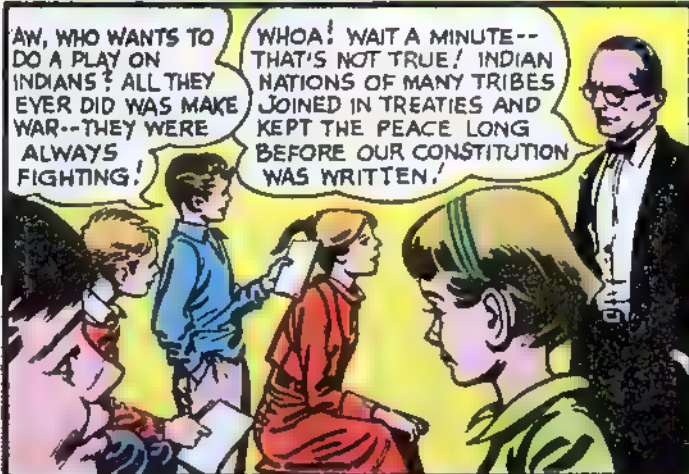
65 Willoughby St., Brooklyn 1, N. Y.



# A SALUTE TO OUR AMERICAN INDIANS!

AW, WHO WANTS TO DO A PLAY ON INDIANS? ALL THEY EVER DID WAS MAKE WAR--THEY WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING!

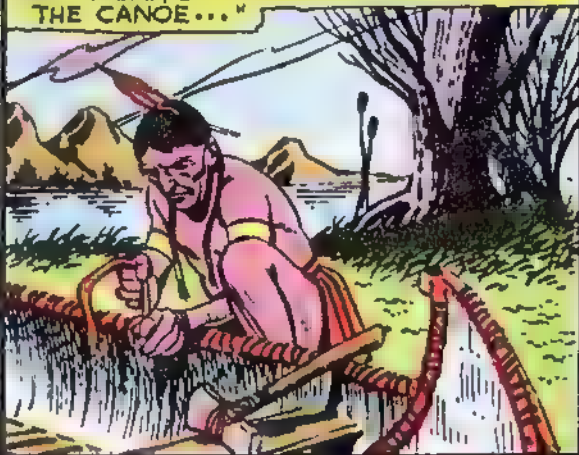
WHOA! WAIT A MINUTE-- THAT'S NOT TRUE! INDIAN NATIONS OF MANY TRIBES JOINED IN TREATIES AND KEPT THE PEACE LONG BEFORE OUR CONSTITUTION WAS WRITTEN.



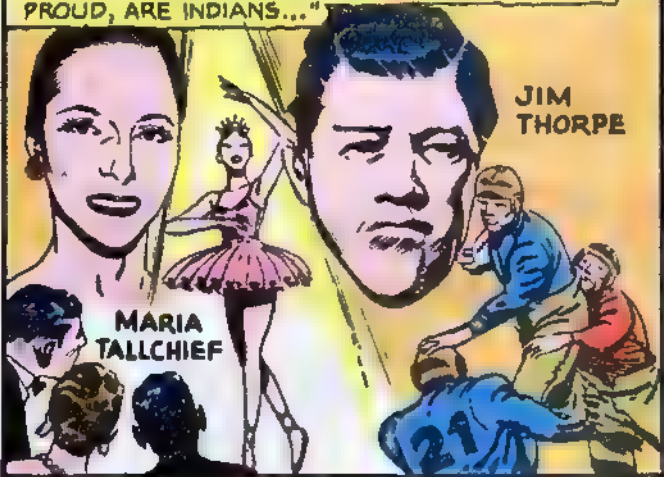
"WE LEARNED ABOUT SOME OF OUR BEST FOODS FROM THE INDIANS--TURKEY, CORN, BEANS, MAPLE SUGAR, SWEET POTATOES..."



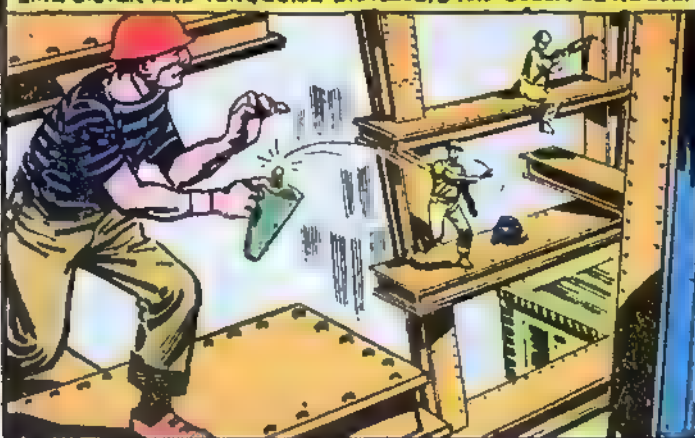
"INDIANS INVENTED MANY OF THE THINGS WE USE TODAY, LIKE THE TOBOGGAN SLED AND THE CANOE..."



"MANY FAMOUS AMERICANS, OF WHOM WE'RE PROUD, ARE INDIANS..."



"TODAY, INDIANS DO MUCH OF THE 'HIGH IRON' AND STEEL WORK ALL OVER THE U.S., AS WELL AS MAKE MANY ARTICLES WE USE, LIKE SILVER AND TURQUOISE BRACELETS AND COLORFUL RUGS..."



GOSH! WE REALLY COULD DO A **BIG** PLAY ON INDIANS!







THERE IT STOOD -- A MYSTERY IN MENACING METAL!  
WHY WAS IT BUILT? WHAT STRANGE AND TERRIBLE  
SECRET DID IT HOLD? UNLESS THE ANSWERS COULD  
BE FOUND, MAN HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DESTROY...

# THE IMPRISONED MIND!

NO!... DON'T DESTROY  
THIS MACHINE!  
PROFESSOR MAD SON'S  
MIND IS TRAPPED  
IN IT!







# HOUSE OF SECRETS



ONE DAY, AS STEVE WATERS, RESEARCH ASSISTANT TO PROFESSOR ELLIOT MADISON, RETURNS FROM A VACATION...

STRANGE... PROFESSOR MADISON HAVN'T BEEN HOME FOR DAYS, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM **HERE!** WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?

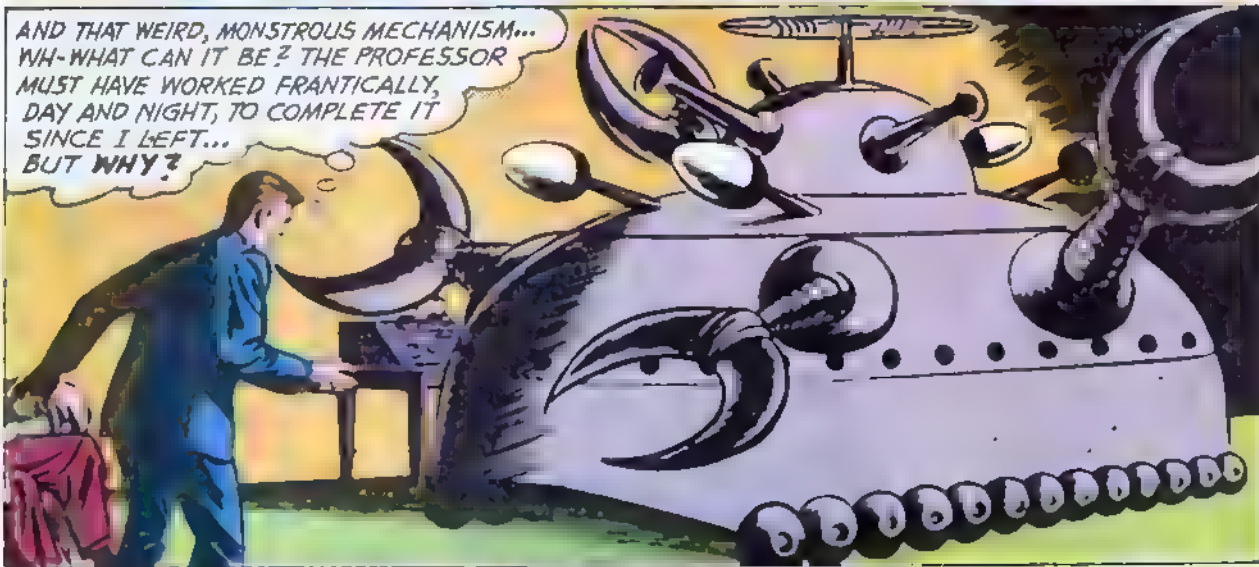


SHORTLY, IN A LITTLE-USED ROOM OF THE HUGE LABORATORY...

THERE HE WAS, **ASLEEP!** BUT--WHAT'S THAT STRANGE HELMET HE'S WEARING? AND...



AND THAT WEIRD, MONSTROUS MECHANISM... WH-WHAT CAN IT BE? THE PROFESSOR MUST HAVE WORKED FRANTICALLY, DAY AND NIGHT, TO COMPLETE IT SINCE I LEFT... BUT **WHY?**



PROFESSOR MADISON, WAKE UP, PLEASE.

IT'S NO USE... HE'S IN A DEEP COMA. BETTER CALL A DOCTOR AT ONCE.



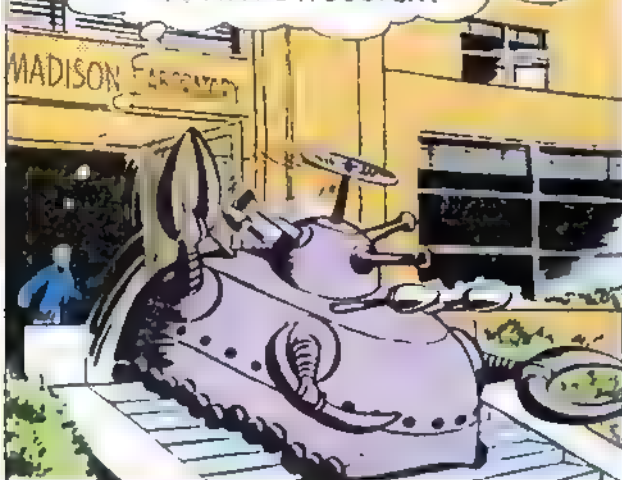
BUT JUST THEN...

THOSE LIGHTS--SUDDENLY BEAMING... WHAT CAN IT MEAN? THE MACHINE SEEMS TO BE DOING THAT BY ITSELF! I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

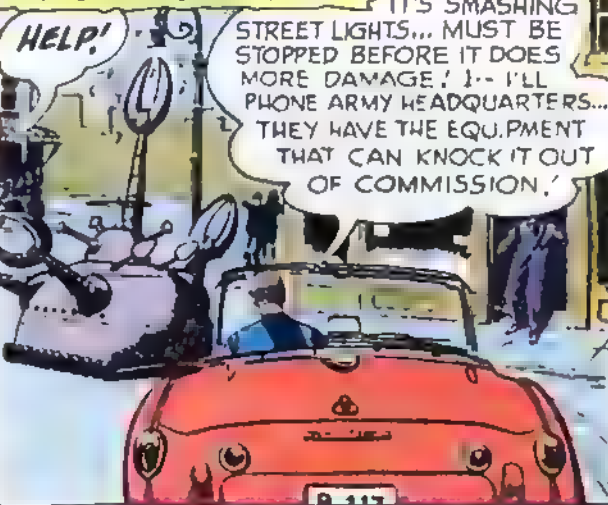




AND NOW... IT'S LEAVING THE LAB -- UNDER ITS OWN POWER! I--I'D BETTER FOLLOW... AFTER I PHONE A DOCTOR!



SOME MINUTES LATER, AS STEVE PICKS UP THE TRAIL OF THE MONSTROUS MECHANISM...

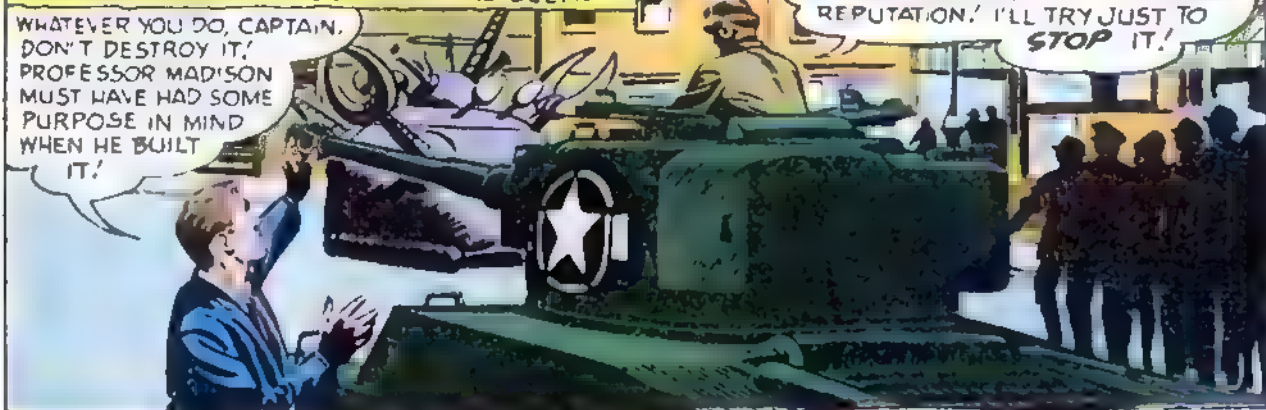


HELP!

IT'S SMASHING STREET LIGHTS... MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE IT DOES MORE DAMAGE! I-- I'LL PHONE ARMY HEADQUARTERS... THEY HAVE THE EQUIPMENT THAT CAN KNOCK IT OUT OF COMMISSION!

AND WHEN AN ARMY TANK REACHES THE SCENE...

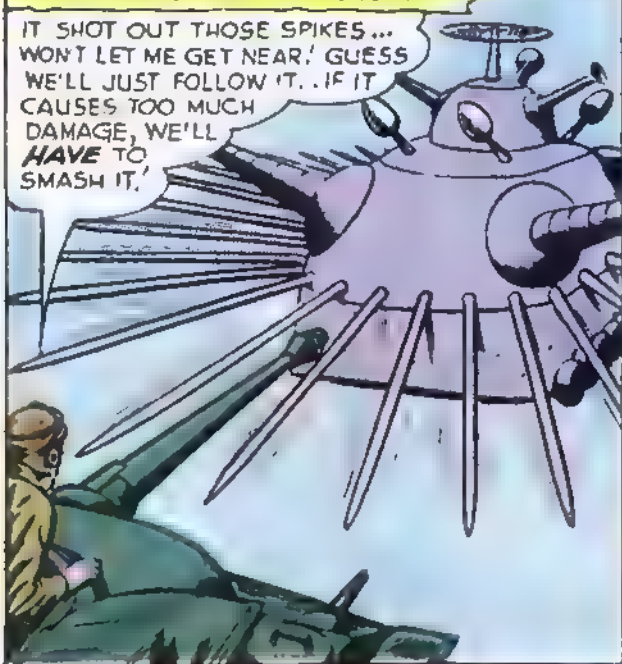
WHATEVER YOU DO, CAPTAIN. DON'T DESTROY IT! PROFESSOR MADISON MUST HAVE HAD SOME PURPOSE IN MIND WHEN HE BUILT IT!



YES...I'M FAMILIAR WITH MADISON'S REPUTATION! I'LL TRY JUST TO STOP IT!

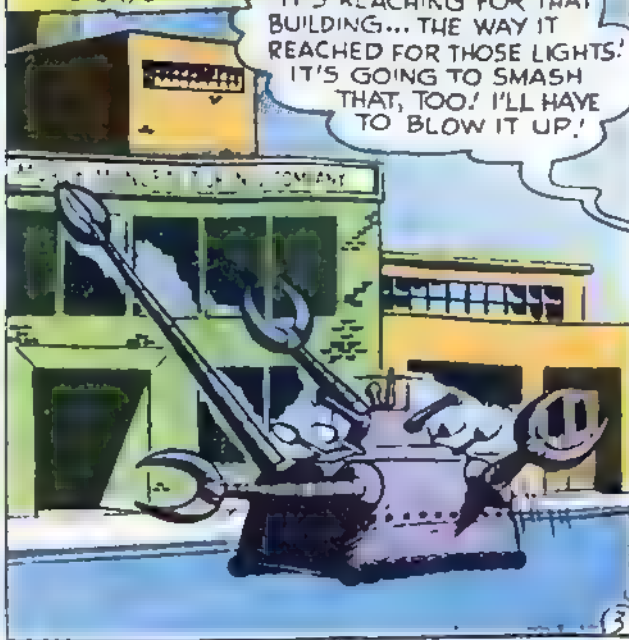
BUT AS THE CAPTAIN APPROACHES...

IT SHOT OUT THOSE SPIKES... WON'T LET ME GET NEAR! GUESS WE'LL JUST FOLLOW IT... IF IT CAUSES TOO MUCH DAMAGE, WE'LL HAVE TO SMASH IT!



GRIMLY, THE TANK STALKS THE METALLIC MONSTER, UNTIL...

IT'S REACHING FOR THAT BUILDING... THE WAY IT REACHED FOR THOSE LIGHTS! IT'S GOING TO SMASH THAT, TOO! I'LL HAVE TO BLOW IT UP!





THE ORDER  
GOES OUT--  
THE TANK  
ZEROPS IN--  
BUT, BEFORE  
IT CAN  
FIRE ...

MAN!

**CRASH!!**

GREAT SCOTT! IT TORE  
DOWN THE BUILDING AS  
A BARRICADE! LUCKY  
TODAY IS SUNDAY--  
NOBODY'S INSIDE!

THAT MACHINE  
IS A MENACE  
TO THE ENTIRE  
CITY! I'M  
SENDING  
FOR REIN-  
FORCEMENTS!

WHAT CAN IT BE?  
AND WHY DID  
THE PROFESSOR  
BUILD IT? IF I  
ONLY KNEW!

BEFORE LONG, FLAME THROWERS ARRIVE, AND...

NOW WE'LL  
GET IT...

SEARING FLAMES  
REACH OUT, BUT...

IT'S ESCAPED AGAIN...  
BURROWING UNDER-  
GROUND!

WAIT...  
I HAVE AN  
IDEA!

**CRUNCH!!**

THE DOCTOR I  
SUMMONED FOR  
PROF. MADISON...  
HE MUST BE  
THERE BY NOW!  
IF HE'S AWAKENED  
THE PROFESSOR,  
WE MAY DISCOVER  
WHAT THIS IS ALL  
ABOUT! PLEASE...  
DO NOTHING  
UNTIL I  
RETURN!

I CAN'T PROMISE  
**THAT...** BUT IF  
THE MACHINE  
STOPS RAMPAG-  
ING, I'LL WAIT  
TILL YOU GET  
BACK!





HURRIED MOMENTS LATER, BACK AT THE LAB...

NOPE-- COULDN'T REVIVE HIM... HE'S IN SOME KIND OF VERY DEEP COMA! HOWEVER, I DID SEE SOMETHING THAT SHOULD INTEREST YOU... A *DIARY* HE WAS WORKING ON-- OVER THERE!

THAT MAY TELL WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW, DOCTOR!



AS STEVE PORES OVER THE DOCUMENT--

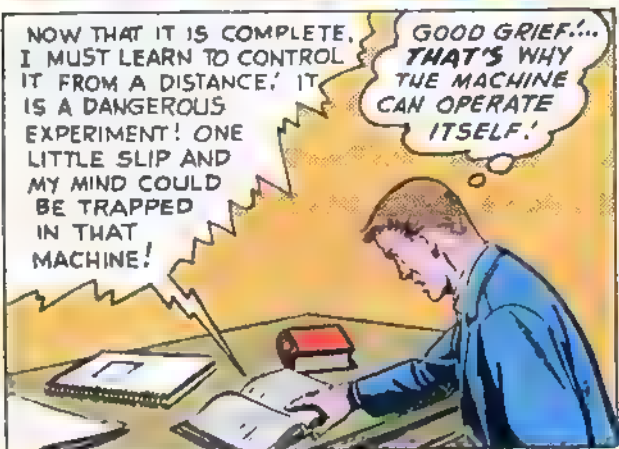
May 11. I've figured out what I must do, what kind of mechanism to make! I must start work at once, and not stop till it's finished! It is of the utmost importance!

WELL, HE FINISHED IT... BUT WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?



NOW THAT IT IS COMPLETE, I MUST LEARN TO CONTROL IT FROM A DISTANCE! IT IS A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT! ONE LITTLE SLIP AND MY MIND COULD BE TRAPPED IN THAT MACHINE!

GOOD GRIEF... THAT'S WHY THE MACHINE CAN OPERATE ITSELF!



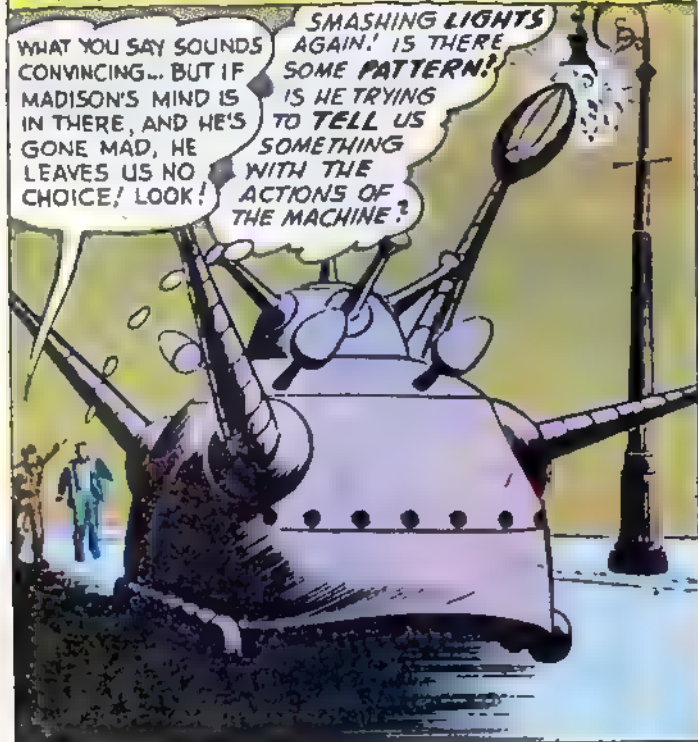
PROF. MADISON'S MIND IS IMPRISONED IN IT! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT MUST NOT BE DESTROYED!



WHEN STEVE RETURNS, AND EXPLAINS TO THE CAPTAIN...

WHAT YOU SAY SOUNDS CONVINCING... BUT IF MADISON'S MIND IS IN THERE, AND HE'S GONE MAD, HE LEAVES US NO CHOICE! LOOK!

SMASHING LIGHTS AGAIN! IS THERE SOME PATTERN? IS HE TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING WITH THE ACTIONS OF THE MACHINE?

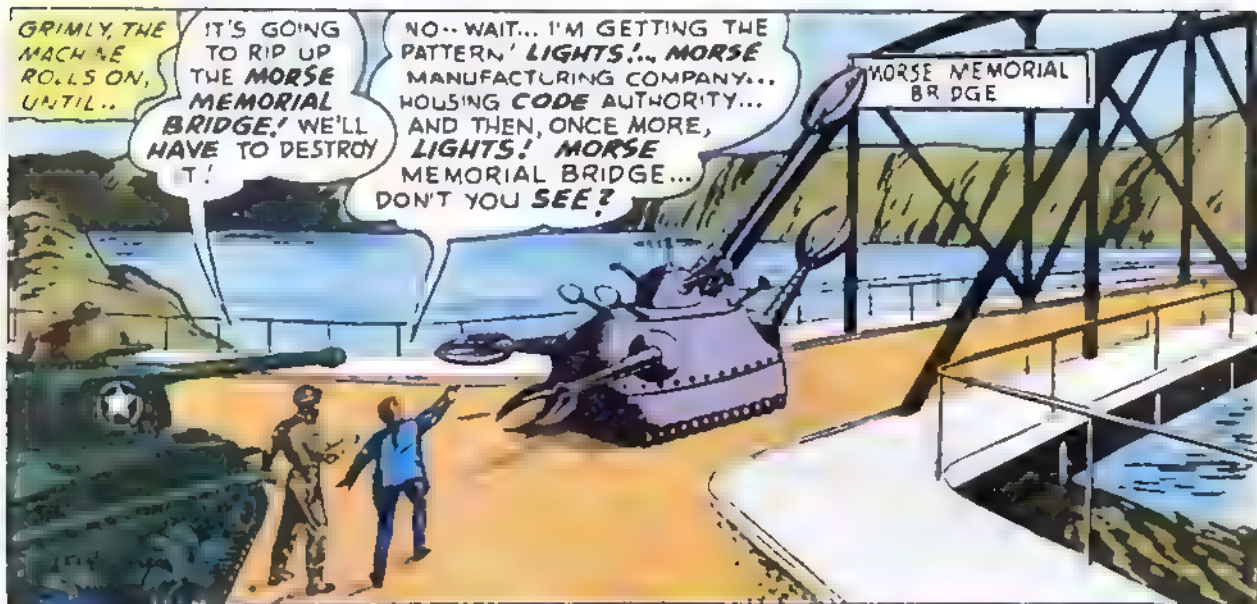


I MUST BLOW IT TO BITS NOW-- BEFORE IT DOES WORSE DAMAGE! IT'S GONE BERSERK!

NO! PLEASE... GIVE ME TEN MINUTES! I... I'M GETTING AN IDEA! WE MUST FOLLOW IT... SEE WHAT IT DOES NEXT!





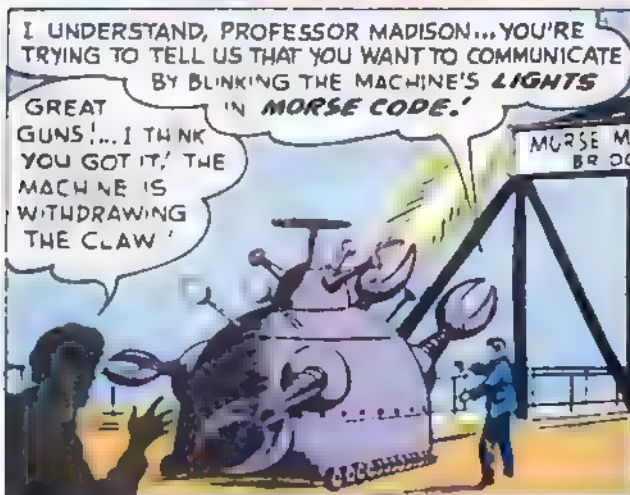


GRIMLY, THE MACHINE ROLLS ON, UNTIL...

IT'S GOING TO RIP UP THE MORSE MEMORIAL BRIDGE! WE'LL HAVE TO DESTROY IT!

NO-- WAIT... I'M GETTING THE PATTERN! **LIGHTS! MORSE** MANUFACTURING COMPANY... HOLDING **CODE** AUTHORITY... AND THEN, ONCE MORE, **LIGHTS! MORSE** MEMORIAL BRIDGE... DON'T YOU SEE?

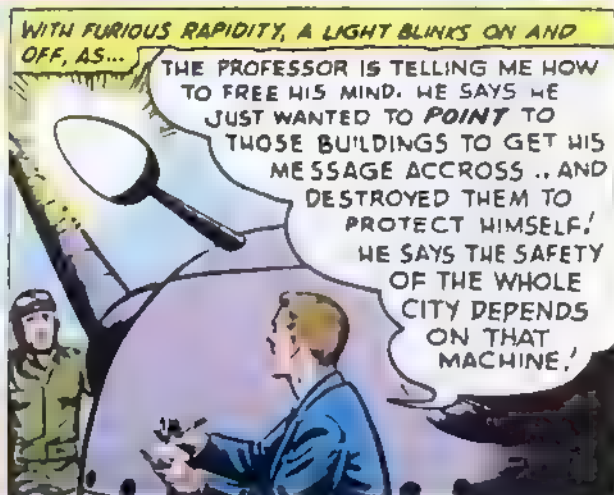
MORSE MEMORIAL BRIDGE



I UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR MADISON... YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL US THAT YOU WANT TO COMMUNICATE BY BLINKING THE MACHINE'S **LIGHTS** IN **MORSE CODE**!

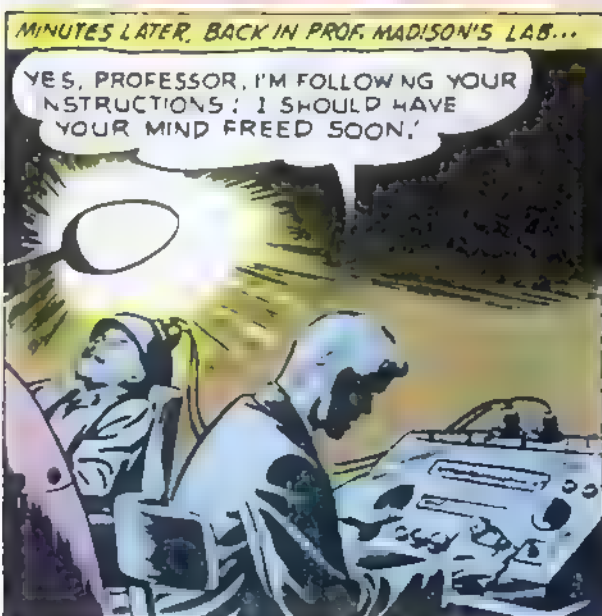
GREAT GUNS!... I THINK YOU GOT IT! THE MACHINE IS WITHDRAWING THE CLAW!

MORSE M BRIDGE



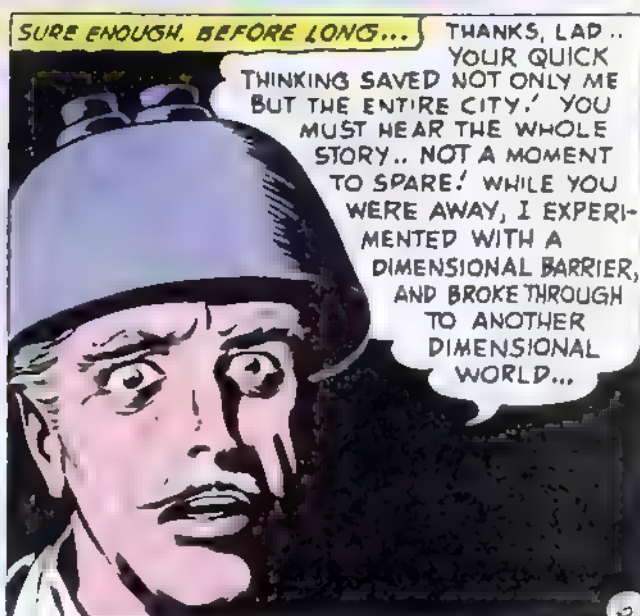
WITH FURIOUS RAPIDITY, A LIGHT BLINKS ON AND OFF, AS...

THE PROFESSOR IS TELLING ME HOW TO FREE HIS MIND. HE SAYS HE JUST WANTED TO **POINT** TO THOSE BUILDINGS TO GET HIS MESSAGE ACCROSS.. AND DESTROYED THEM TO PROTECT HIMSELF! HE SAYS THE SAFETY OF THE WHOLE CITY DEPENDS ON THAT MACHINE!



MINUTES LATER, BACK IN PROF. MADISON'S LAB...

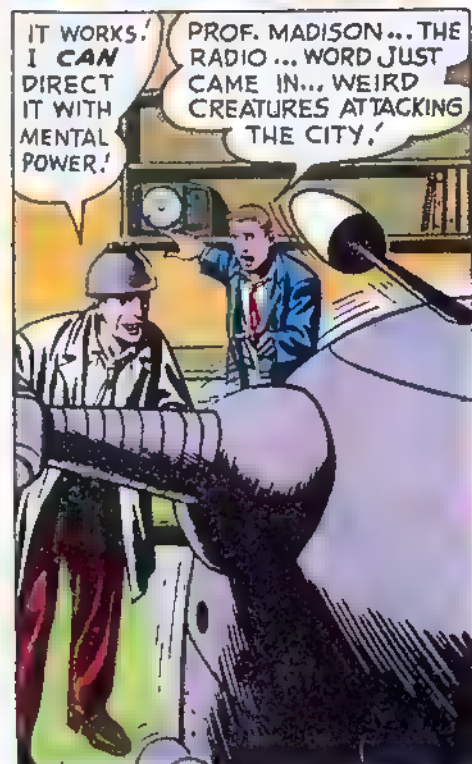
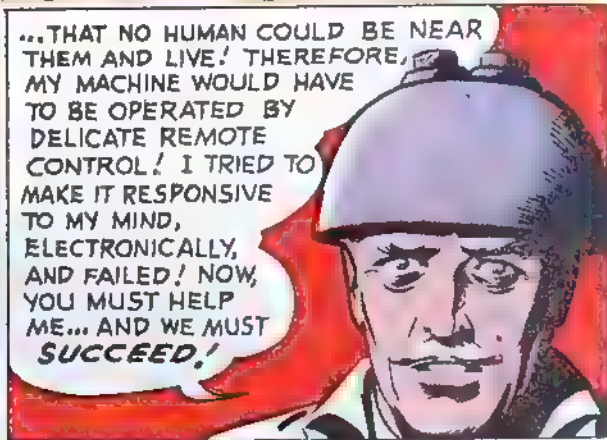
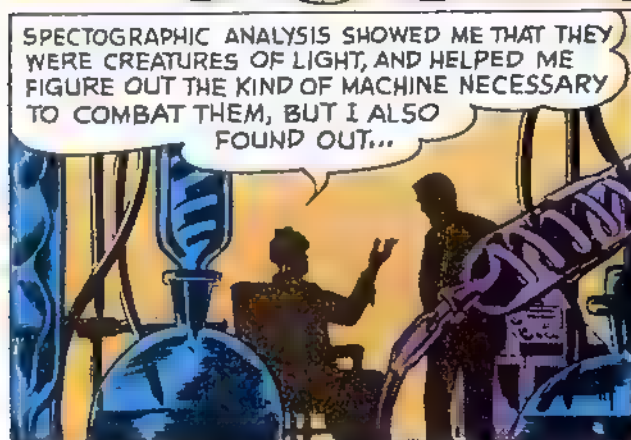
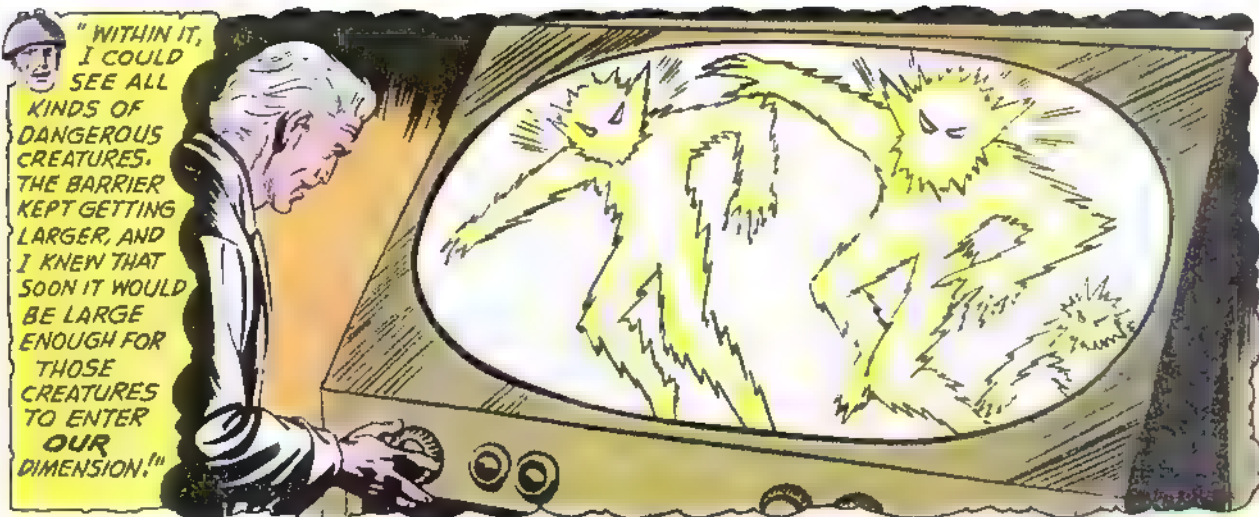
YES, PROFESSOR, I'M FOLLOWING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS! I SHOULD HAVE YOUR MIND FREED SOON!



SURE ENOUGH, BEFORE LONG...

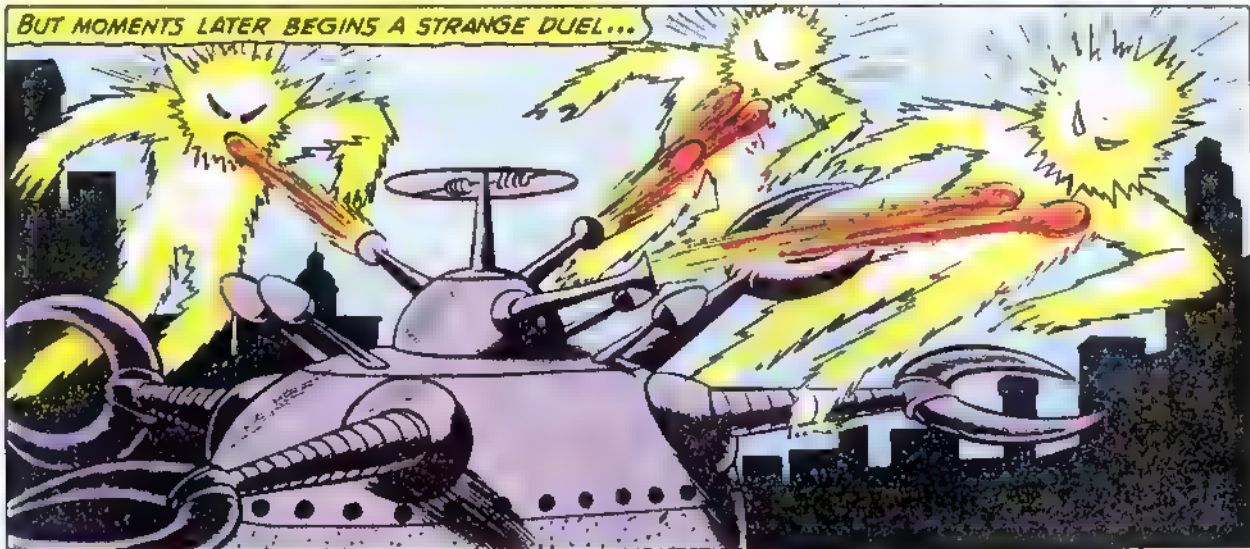
THANKS, LAD.. YOUR QUICK THINKING SAVED NOT ONLY ME BUT THE ENTIRE CITY! YOU MUST HEAR THE WHOLE STORY.. NOT A MOMENT TO SPARE! WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, I EXPERIMENTED WITH A DIMENSIONAL BARRIER, AND BROKE THROUGH TO ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL WORLD...







BUT MOMENTS LATER BEGINS A STRANGE DUEL...



SOON...

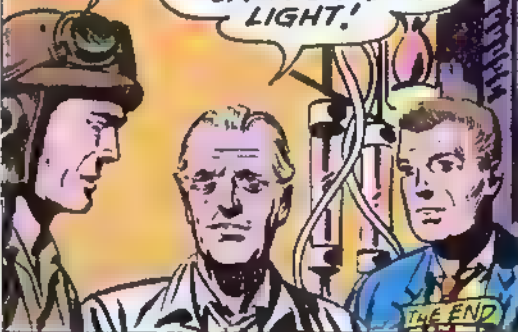
THEY'RE GOING NOW! THANK GOODNESS FOR PROFESSOR MADISON'S MACHINE!



AND SO, FINALLY, BACK IN THE LAB...

THE CITY OWES YOU AND YOUR YOUNG ASSISTANT A LOT, PROFESSOR!

WELL...I OPENED THAT BARRIER, AND IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT IT CAUSED NO REAL HARM! SOON, IT WILL CLOSE, AND THEY'LL NEVER RETURN... BECAUSE MY MACHINE **ABSORBS** LIGHT...AND THEY ARE **CREATURES OF LIGHT!**



Your Passport to **AMAZING ADVENTURES!**





**Who** is **HAWKMAN** --

THE WINGED CREATURE THAT SOARS  
HIGH OVER EARTH -- HIS KEEN EYES  
ALERT -- HIS MIGHTY BODY TENSED TO DO  
BATTLE WITH THE FORCES OF EVIL ?

**Why** does **HAWKMAN**

FIGHT THE MENACES OF THE *PRESENT*  
WITH WEAPONS OF THE *PAST* AND  
SCIENCE OF THE *FUTURE* ?

no

**MAN**

STRANGE  
Y -- TO  
BIRDS



he  
sing  
ers to  
baffling  
ons, read  
test  
packed  
of

**IE and the BOLD**

*everywhere!*



# THE CAPSULE OUT OF TIME

LAWFORD and Kean used up three steel cables on their hoist before they succeeded in bringing up the object shaped like a top from the mountain crevice. It was about six feet high, and four feet in diameter at its widest part.

The abstract decorations covering its surface were of an advanced appearance, but the two scientists were unable to determine its age from them. As Lawford put it, "This type of art was unknown to any age I'm familiar with. It obviously originated from a highly advanced civilization."

Kean nodded. "I agree. The substance it's made out of is no ordinary metal or combination of metals. In fact, I'd guess it's . . . But plastics were unknown a million years ago!"

There was a long hard surface with h . . . with a conclusion, . . . thing is a time capsule civilization, that exists ago—and possibly a past that will startle t

"Could be," mused

"Okay, then. Let's eyes were glinting with obviously did not relish

"Hate to smash it, you  
"Such a beautifully dec

"Oh, come on, Law  
"Don't tell me *you* aren't to discover what's inside!

Lawford shrugged. "In he said. "But you know customed to thinking of g in time capsules. What i was buried inside it? Did we might be unleashing o

Kean was stopped, but He had just discovered a quarters of the way up the around the capsule. It seemed top part from the bottom.

"This top screws right off, I'm sure of it!" he exclaimed. "All we have to do is get a large enough jack, and twist the thing off!"

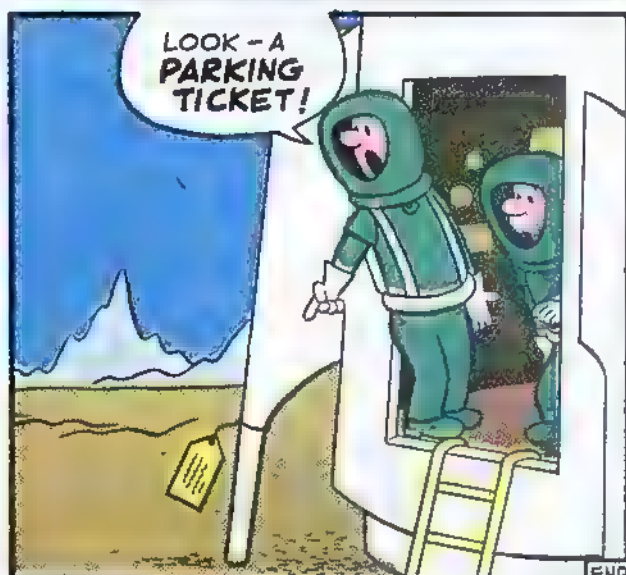
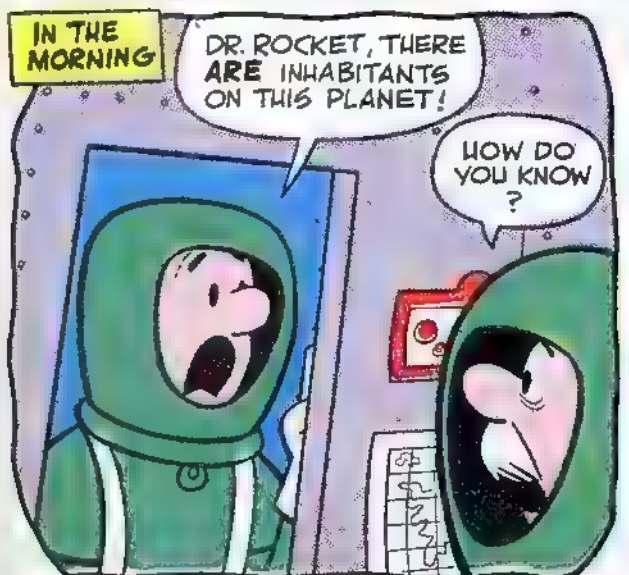
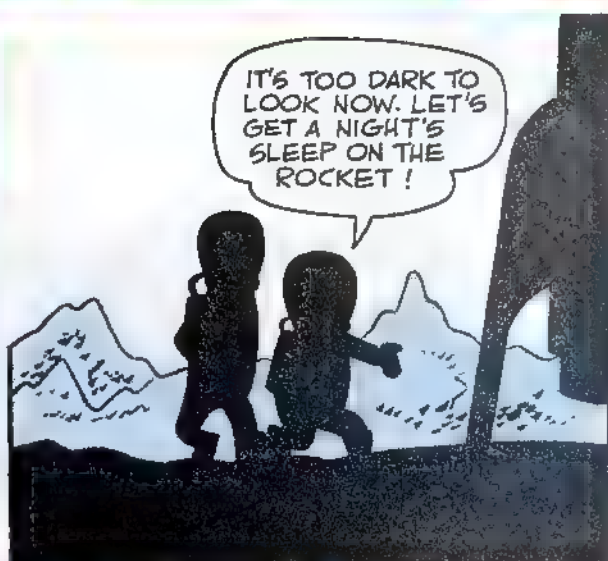
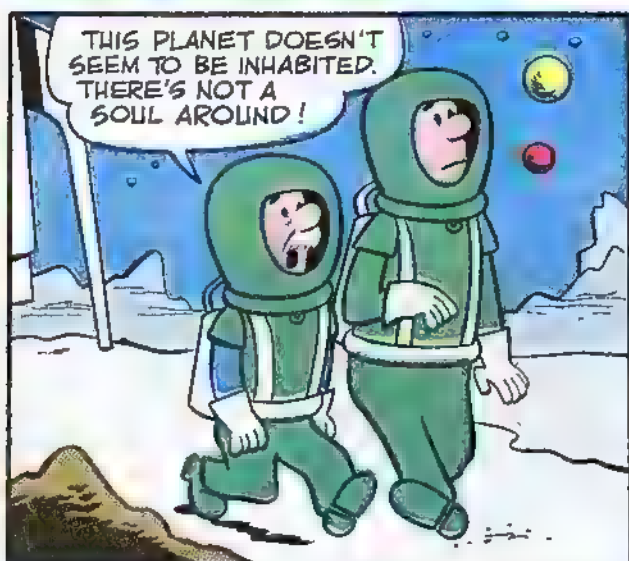
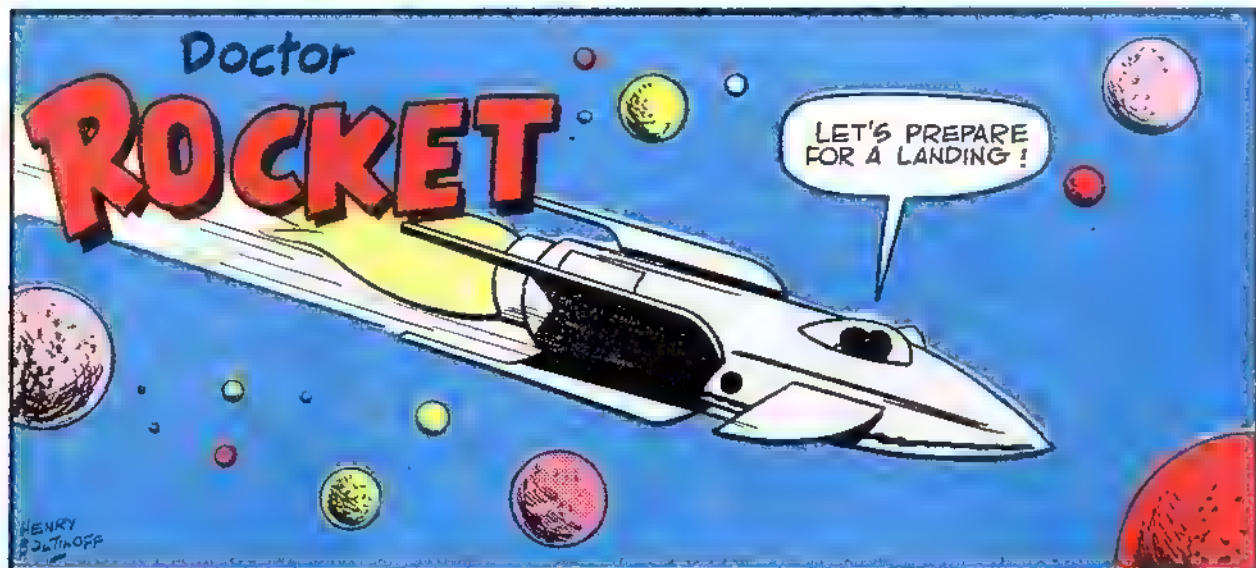
Kean's excitement had now caught on, and Lawford tried to resist the fever of his fellow-scientist. "Think of it, Lawford—an unknown treasure nestling in here! We've just got to open it up."

For half an hour, Lawford continued to protest, then he shrugged in resignation. "Go ahead. Get the jack," he said.

While Kean raced back to their supply jeep for the jack, Lawford gazed somberly at the strange object. Then, suddenly, two m- ingly unrelated things happened.

At the same time a small sun traveling out of





The **BEST** Comics  are **STILL 10¢**



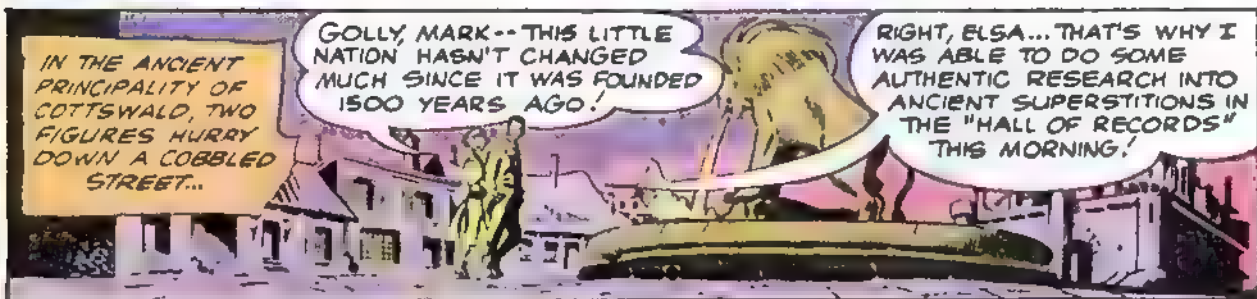


THEY CAME HURTLING OUT OF THE LEGENDARY PAST... AMAZING BEINGS DEDICATED TO AN OATH THEY HAD SWORN TO UPHOLD 1000 YEARS AGO! AND BY AN IRONIC TWIST OF FATE, MARK MERLIN, FAR-FAMED SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL, FOUND HIMSELF ON TRIAL FOR HIS LIFE IN...

# the **COURT** of CREATURES







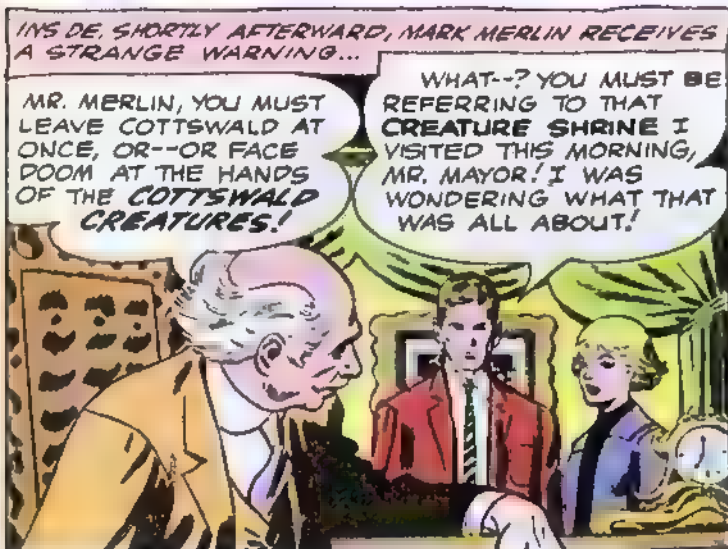
IN THE ANCIENT PRINCIPALITY OF COTTSWALD, TWO FIGURES HURRY DOWN A COBBLED STREET...

GOLLY, MARK-- THIS LITTLE NATION HASN'T CHANGED MUCH SINCE IT WAS FOUNDED 1500 YEARS AGO!

RIGHT, ELSA... THAT'S WHY I WAS ABLE TO DO SOME AUTHENTIC RESEARCH INTO ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS IN THE "HALL OF RECORDS" THIS MORNING!



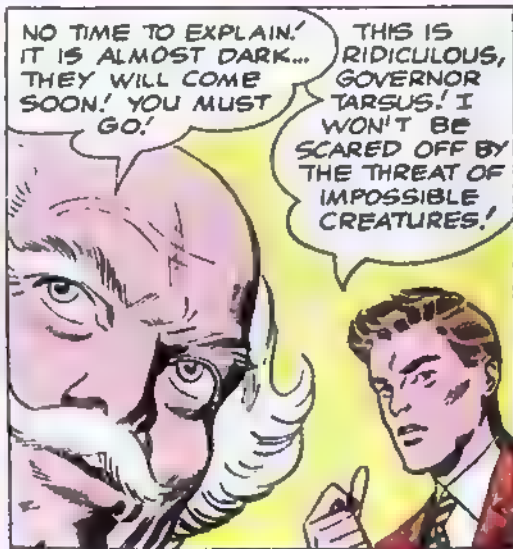
HERE'S THE OLD CASTLE USED AS THE CAPITOL OF COTTSWALD! NOW WE'LL FIND OUT WHY GOVERNOR TARSUS WANTS TO SEE ME SO URGENTLY!



INSIDE, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, MARK MERLIN RECEIVES A STRANGE WARNING...

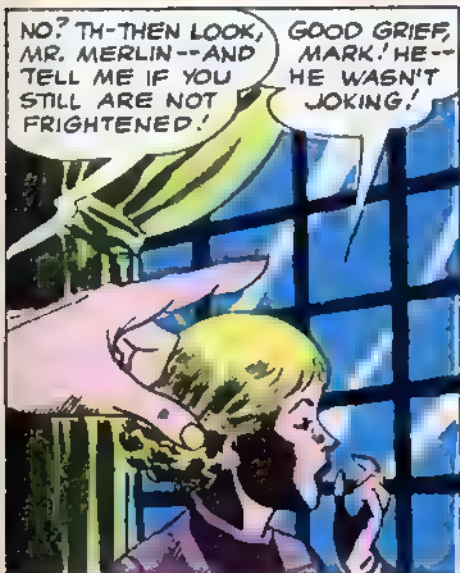
MR. MERLIN, YOU MUST LEAVE COTTSWALD AT ONCE, OR--OR FACE DOOM AT THE HANDS OF THE COTTSWALD CREATURES!

WHAT--? YOU MUST BE REFERRING TO THAT CREATURE SHRINE I VISITED THIS MORNING, MR. MAYOR! I WAS WONDERING WHAT THAT WAS ALL ABOUT!



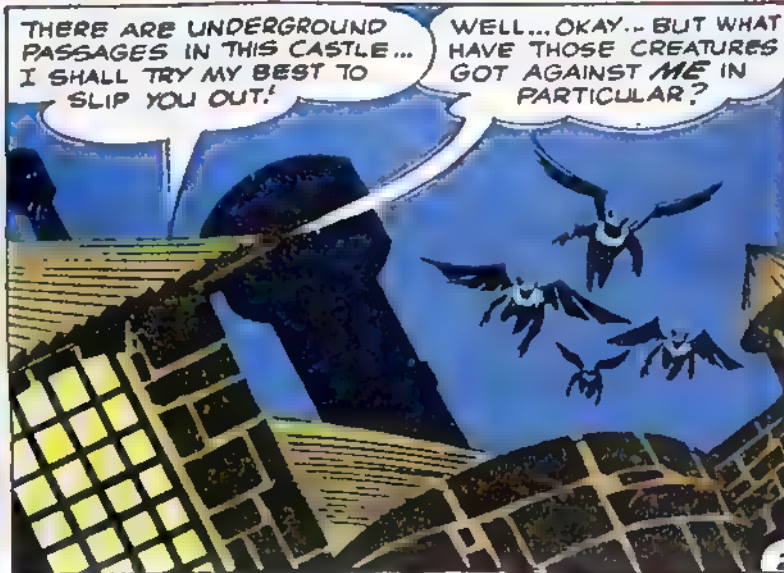
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! IT IS ALMOST DARK... THEY WILL COME SOON! YOU MUST GO!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS, GOVERNOR TARSUS! I WON'T BE SCARED OFF BY THE THREAT OF IMPOSSIBLE CREATURES!



NO? THEN LOOK, MR. MERLIN--AND TELL ME IF YOU STILL ARE NOT FRIGHTENED!

GOOD GRIEF, MARK! HE-- HE WASN'T JOKING!



THERE ARE UNDERGROUND PASSAGES IN THIS CASTLE... I SHALL TRY MY BEST TO SLIP YOU OUT!

WELL... OKAY... BUT WHAT HAVE THOSE CREATURES GOT AGAINST ME IN PARTICULAR?



"LISTEN CAREFULLY... IT WAS ROLLO, A MASTER OF BLACK MAGIC, WHO WAS SUMMONED BY MY ANCESTOR, PRINCE TARSUS, IN THE YEAR 961..."

HELP US, ROLLO! OUR FORCES ARE TOO WEAK TO REPEL THE VIKING INVADERS!

FEAR NOT, SIRE... I SHALL SUMMON WARRIORS FROM A WORLD UNKNOWN--TO HURL 'BACK THE STRANGERS!

"YES... FROM SOME UNKNOWN WORLD THEY CAME.. INTELLIGENT CREATURES WITH VAST POWERS..."

WE HAVE HEARD YOUR SUMMONS-- AND DEVOTE OURSELVES TO THE EVERLASTING SERVICE OF OUR NATION!

AMAZING! THE CREATURES USE THEIR BODIES AS MISSILES-- DESTROYING THE NORSE GALLEYS!

"AFTER THE BRIEF BATTLE..."

VIKINGS, YOU ARE OUR PRISONERS-- AND MUST STAND TRIAL FOR INVADING THIS NATION!

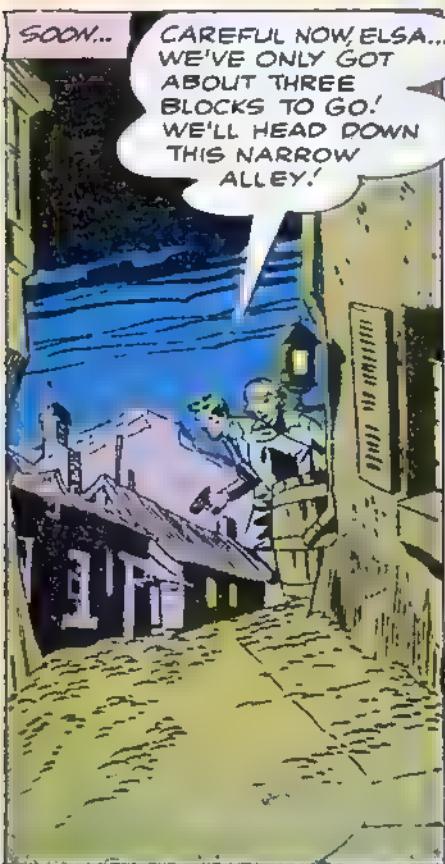
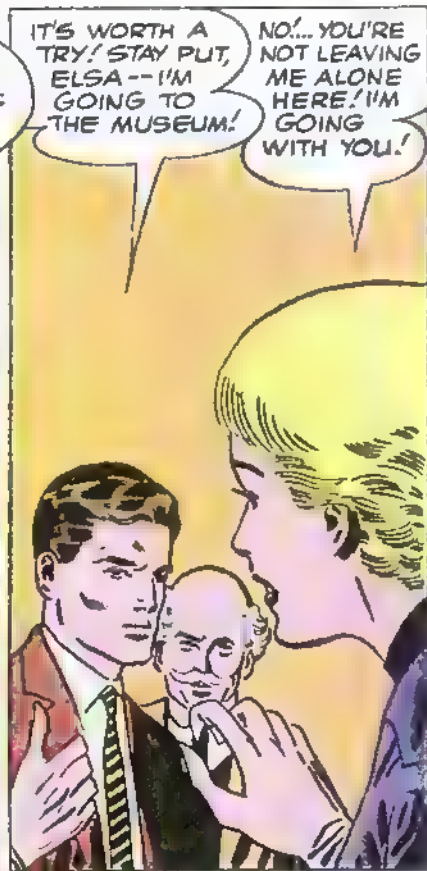
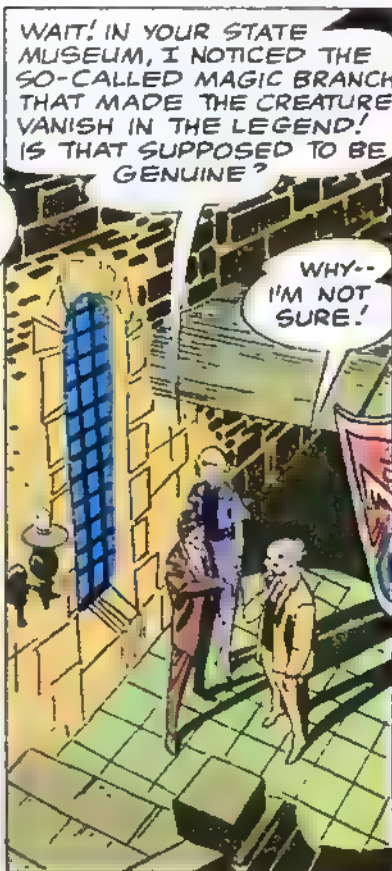
THERE IS JUSTNESS IN YOUR CREATURES, ROLLO... BUT WITH THE DANGER PAST, WE NO LONGER NEED THEM!

A WAVE OF THIS MAGIC BRANCH, SIRE, WILL MAKE THEM VANISH! HENCEFORTH, THEY WILL RETURN TO SERVE YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS WHENEVER THEY ARE NEEDED!

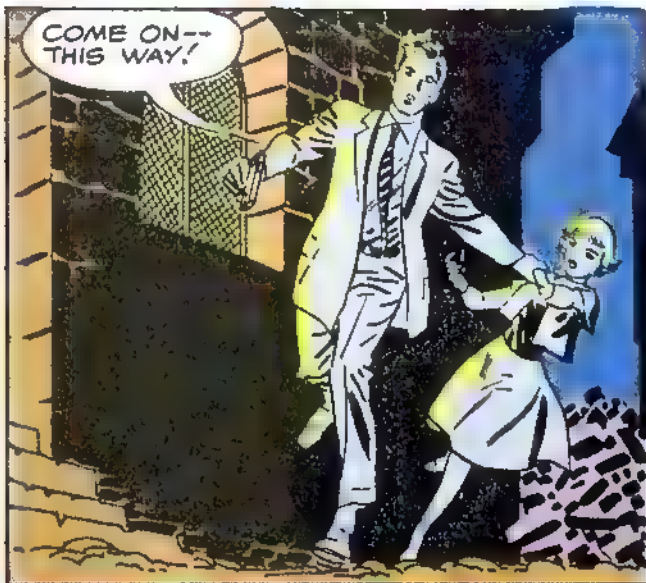
OKAY-- BUT WHY HAVE THEY RETURNED TO SEEK VENGEANCE ON ME?

BECAUSE, MR. MERLIN-- YOU, A STRANGER IN OUR LAND, DARED TO STEP INSIDE THE SACRED CREATURE SHRINE DURING YOUR RESEACHES! NOW-- YOUR LIFE IS IN DANGER!

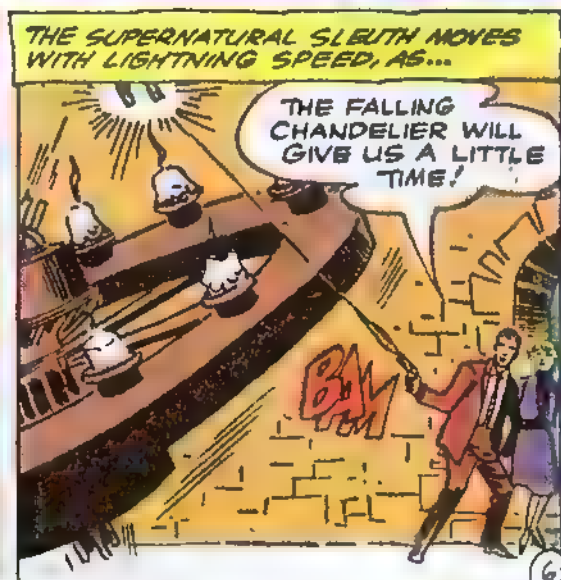
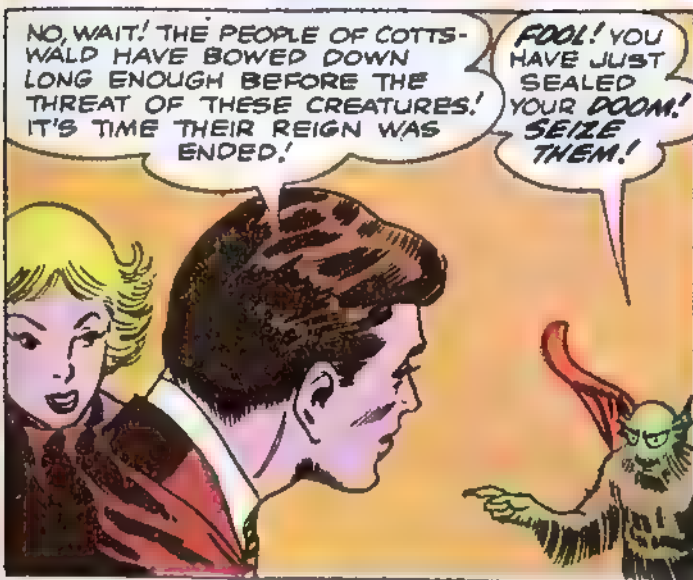
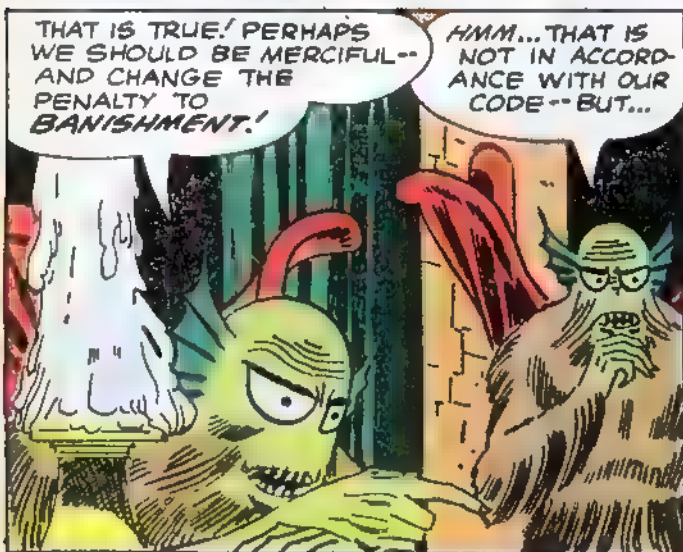
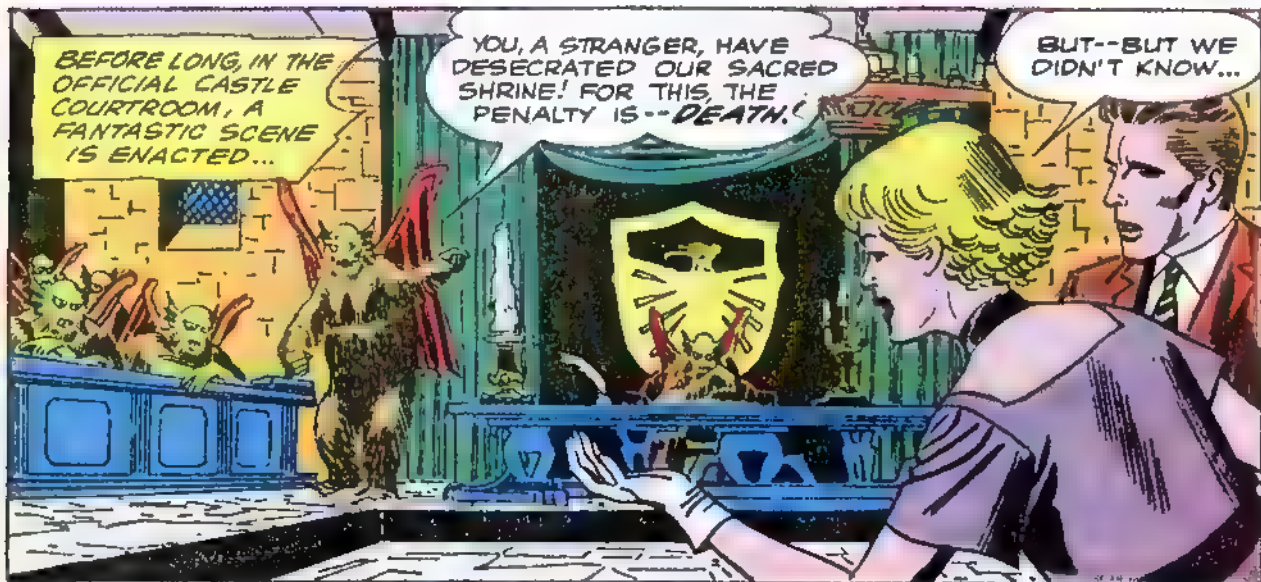












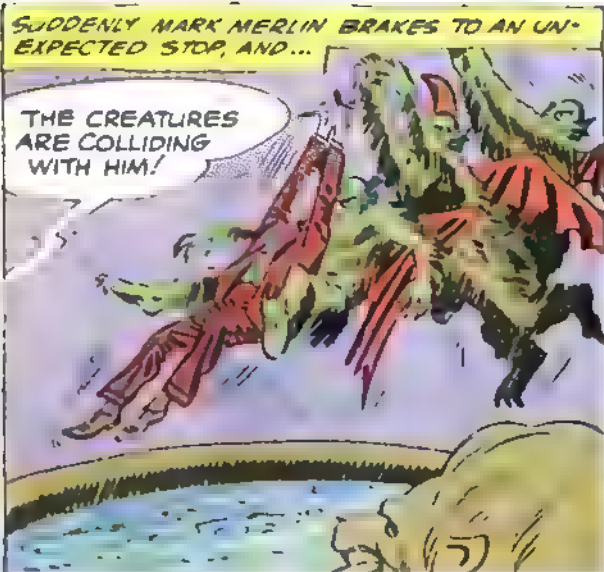




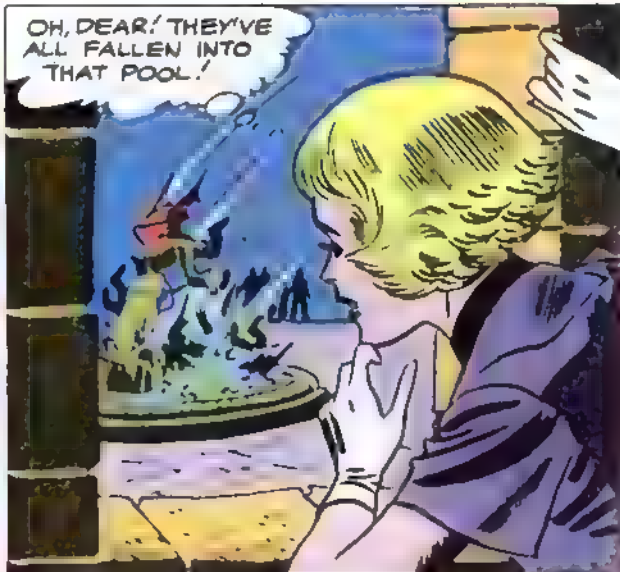


SUDDENLY MARK MERLIN BRAKES TO AN UNEXPECTED STOP, AND...

THE CREATURES ARE COLLIDING WITH HIM!

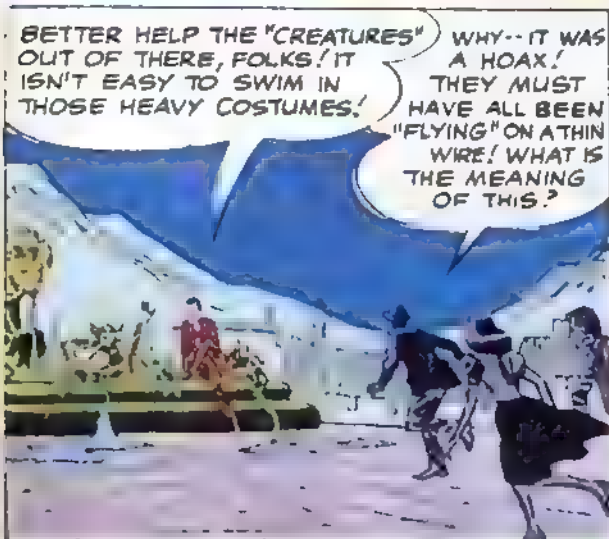


OH, DEAR! THEY'VE ALL FALLEN INTO THAT POOL!

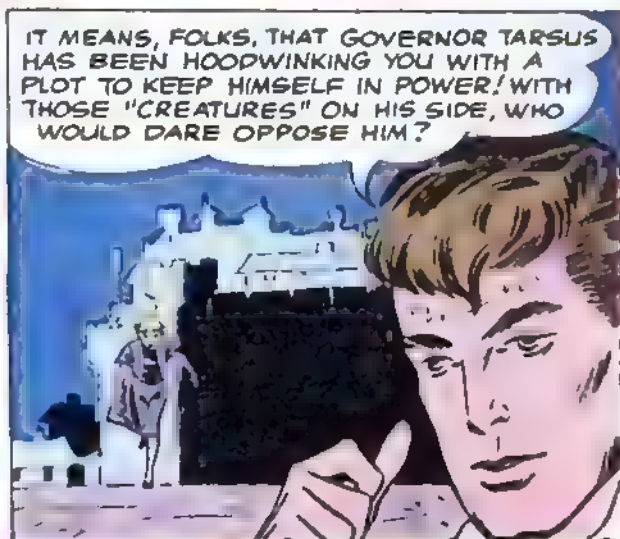


BETTER HELP THE "CREATURES" OUT OF THERE, FOLKS! IT ISN'T EASY TO SWIM IN THOSE HEAVY COSTUMES!

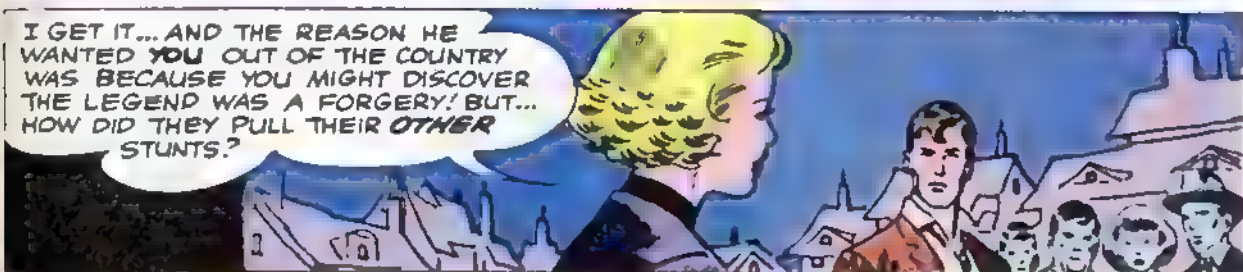
WHY-- IT WAS A HOAX! THEY MUST HAVE ALL BEEN "FLYING" ON A THIN WIRE! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?



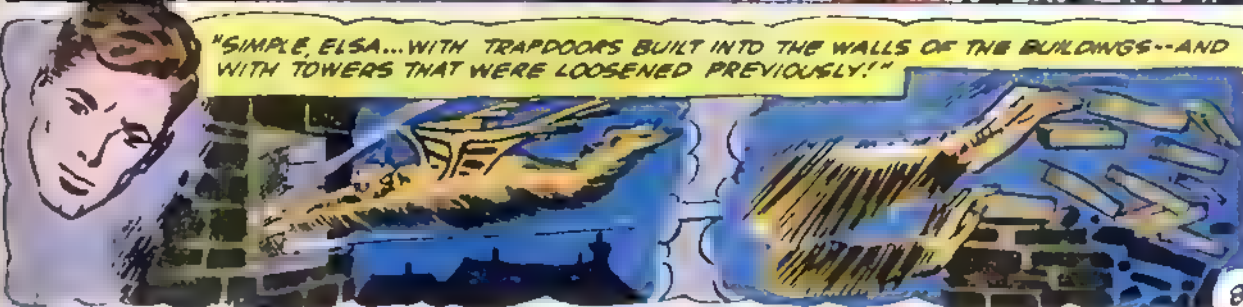
IT MEANS, FOLKS, THAT GOVERNOR TARSUS HAS BEEN HOODWINKING YOU WITH A PLOT TO KEEP HIMSELF IN POWER! WITH THOSE "CREATURES" ON HIS SIDE, WHO WOULD DARE OPPOSE HIM?



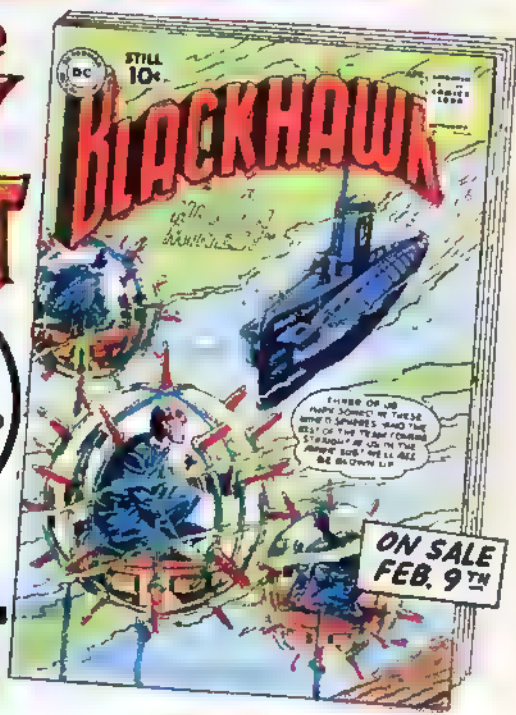
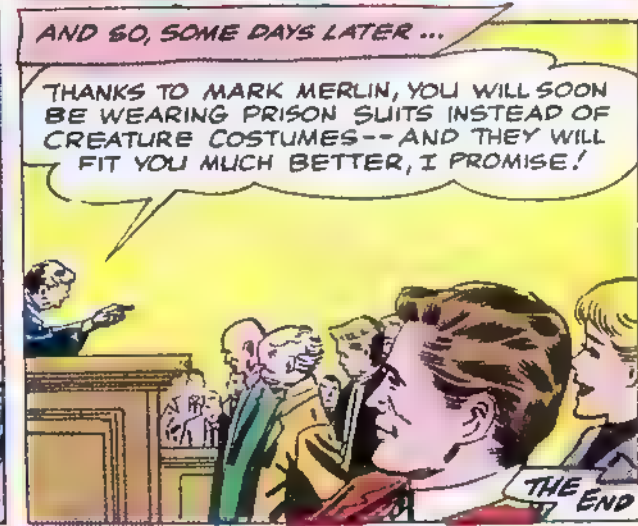
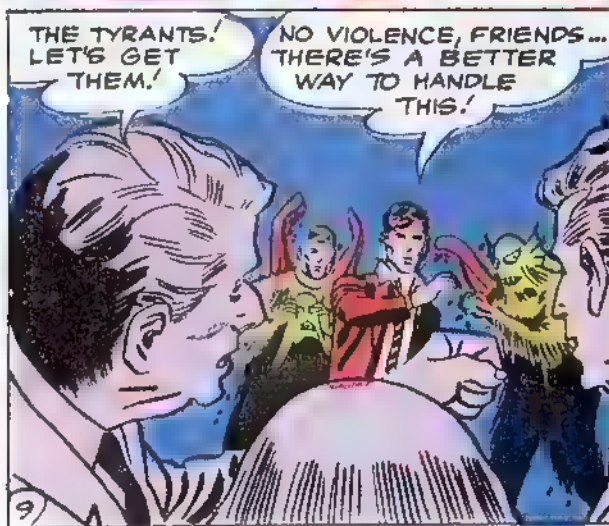
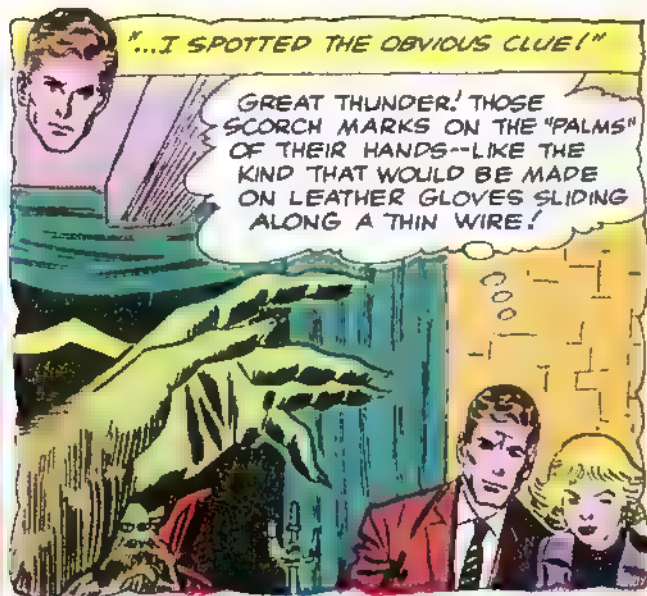
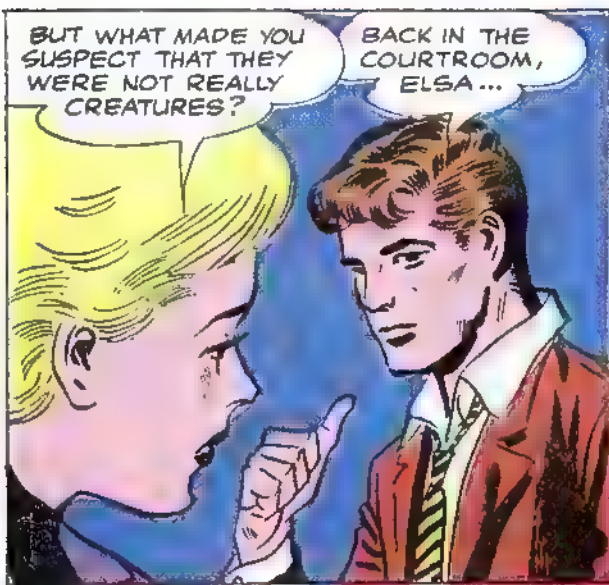
I GET IT... AND THE REASON HE WANTED YOU OUT OF THE COUNTRY WAS BECAUSE YOU MIGHT DISCOVER THE LEGEND WAS A FORGERY! BUT... HOW DID THEY PULL THEIR OTHER STUNTS?



"SIMPLE, ELSA... WITH TRAPDOORS BUILT INTO THE WALLS OF THE BUILDINGS--AND WITH TOWERS THAT WERE LOOSENED PREVIOUSLY!"



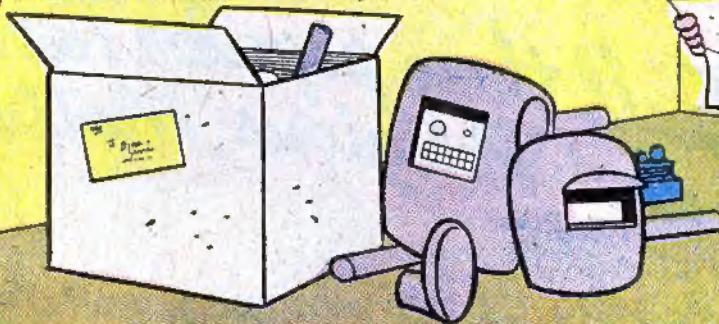






# PROFESSOR EUREKA

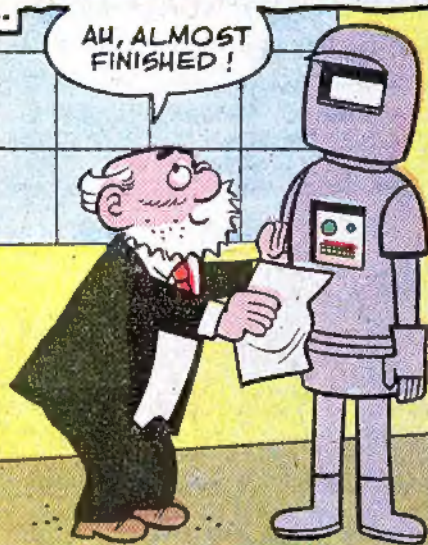
DR. EPEE, THE GREAT FRENCH SCIENTIST, SENT ME THIS ROBOT, WITH INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ASSEMBLE IT!



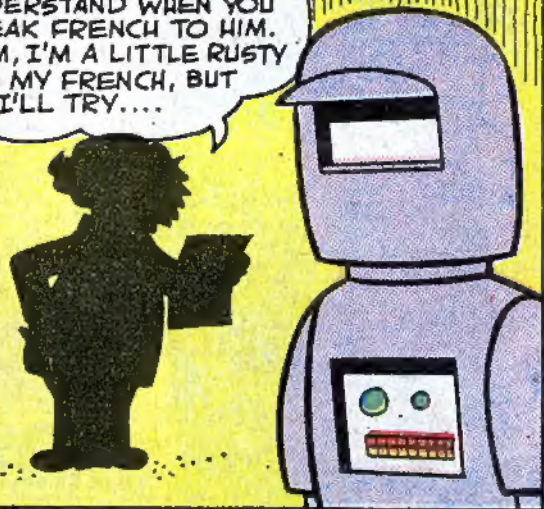
HENRY  
BOLTHOFF

AND...

AH, ALMOST FINISHED!



HIS NOTE SAYS HE CAN UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU SPEAK FRENCH TO HIM. HMM, I'M A LITTLE RUSTY ON MY FRENCH, BUT I'LL TRY....

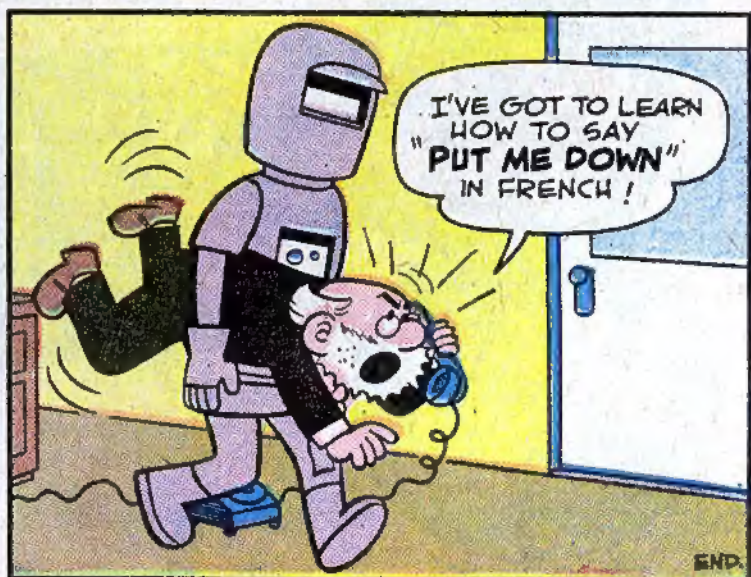


SHORTLY


OPERATOR, GET ME DR. EPEE IN PARIS -- HURRY!



I'VE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO SAY "PUT ME DOWN" IN FRENCH!



END

The **BEST** Comics  are **STILL** 10¢



# DO YOU WANT SPENDING MONEY?

*Sell these popular Patriotic and Religious Mottoes*

## SEND US NO MONEY IN ADVANCE

Just write and ask us to send you 40 of these beautiful glittering mottoes which the public likes so well. Sell them easily and quickly to your friends and neighbors for only 35c each. At the end of 14 days send back, if you wish, all mottoes you have not sold, and send us only 25c for each you have sold. You keep all the rest of the money.

**IF YOU SELL 25, YOU KEEP \$2.50**

**IF YOU SELL 30, YOU KEEP \$3.00**

**IF YOU SELL ALL 40 YOU KEEP \$4.00**

**REMEMBER:** No money is needed in advance. You take no risks. You can return all the mottoes you do not sell. You do not pay shipping costs or split your commission. You keep all the profit on each sale.

WRITE  
FOR COMPLETE  
DETAILS  
TO ➡

**STEPHENS CREDIT SALES**

Dept. NB P. O. Box 1004

Nashville, Tennessee



Are **YOU**  
**SKINNY**  
like I was?

a 90 lb.  
weakling  
who became  
world's  
strongest  
man



George  
Jowett  
BEFORE

Just RUSH me your LAST CHANCE COUPON below with YOUR NAME and ADDRESS ON IT  
and I'll show **YOU** absolutely **FREE**

# How to GAIN UP TO 50 LBS. OF MIGHTY MUSCLES!

And Become a REAL HE-MAN like MANY THOUSANDS of My Pupils in 10 Minutes of FUN a Day

Yes! I'll Show You By My Quick,  
Easy Methods How To

**ADD POWERFUL NEW  
INCHES OF MUSCLES  
around YOUR ARMS,  
CHEST, LEGS, etc.**

**How to IMPROVE YOUR  
HE-MAN LOOKS 100%.**

**How to BECOME A WINNING ATHLETE  
IN ALL POPULAR SPORTS.**

**How to BEAT ANY BULLY.**

**How to DO FEATS of STRENGTH.**

**How to be a WINNER in EVERYTHING  
YOU TACKLE.**

**YES!** Your Success Story Can Soon be like John Sill and thousands of my pupils. Think of it — a skinny weakling like you became a **MAGNIFICENT MR. MUSCLES** — won a **BIG SILVER TROPHY**, his name, accomplishments engraved on it and \$100. A few weeks before, everybody picked on John, too weak to fight for his rights. TODAY everybody admires John's movie star build, he-man **STRENGTH**, his mighty **ARMS**, heroic **CHEST**, slender **WAIST**, rock-like **TORSO**, broad manly **BACK**, wide military **SHOULDERS**, new popularity with the **BOYS** and **GIRLS**. His winning drive in **ALL SPORTS**, his energy at work and studies.

**NO!** I don't care how skinny or flabby you are, if you are in your teens, twenties or thirties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes a day in your home, you can make yourself over by the easy, quick method I turned myself from a wreck to a **WORLD CHAMPION**.

**YES!** YOU'LL ADD INCH upon INCH of MIGHTY MUSCLES to YOUR ARMS, YOU'LL DEEPEN YOUR CHEST, BROADEN YOUR BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS you'll gain **SIZE**, **POWER**, **LIGHTNING SPEED**, **ENDURANCE**. You'll become the **SUCCESSFUL HE-MAN** in LOOKS and ACTS — a **WINNER** in EVERYTHING, athletics, business, studies.

**DEVELOP YOUR 520 MUSCLES  
BY THE GREATEST METHOD!**

Friend, I traveled the world, studying every secret to PERFECTLY develop your body. My "5-Way Progressive Power Method" is TESTED-PROVED by hundreds of thousands LIKE YOU! SAVE YEARS, hundreds of DOLLARS! Do as movie stars, champions — John Sill, Jim Norman, Tony Pascarella — did! Mail coupon NOW!

**Pick the  
kind of  
BODY YOU  
WANT**

**Check ALL Your  
Needs —**

**WIN  
A BIG  
Silver Trophy  
and \$100  
IN CASH**



**MAIL THE COUPON TO ME NOW  
and I'll Send You FREE these**

**5 AMAZING PICTURE-PACKED COURSES**

**PLUS BOOK OF PHOTOS OF FAMOUS STRONG  
MEN ONCE WEAK LIKE YOU**



Formerly \$5.00 each. MILLIONS were sold at \$1.00. Send for them ALL FREE. Mail Coupon BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE and you have to pay \$1.00 or \$5.00.

**I GAINED  
60 LBS.  
OF SHAPELY  
MIGHTY  
MUSCLES**

This Can Be  
**YOU** in a  
Short  
Time!

**BEFORE**  
Mailing  
Coupon  
I was a  
125 lb.  
6 ft.  
skinny  
weakling



**AFTER**

Mailing  
Coupon  
185 lb.  
HEAD-TO-  
TOE HE-MAN  
POPULAR  
ATHLETE  
You can  
be, too!

says **JOHN SILL**

I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3 1/2 INCHES to EACH ARM. No, Pail You don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.



**BEFORE**

**THEY CALLED ME  
"SKINNY" —  
BUT NOW  
THEY CALL ME  
MR. MUSCLES**

**TONY PASCARELLA**

**AFTER**

Thanks to Jowett easy methods I GAINED 28 LBS. of MUSCLE-PACKED STRENGTH ALL OVER. I won new handsome looks—great athletic ability. Now You do it!

**I BROKE A  
WORLD'S  
STRENGTH  
RECORD!**

**JIM NORMAN** became Athlete of the Year. Lifted the front end of a 2700 lb. Car. Quit being a bag-of-bones weakling like I was. In 10 minutes of fun a day JOWETT CAN DO FOR YOU ALL HE DID FOR ME! I gained 25 TERRIFIC LBS. of HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

mailing  
coupon  
below—  
like  
you do  
NOW.

**JOWETT Institute of Physical Training, Dept. NC-14 GREAT NECK, NEW YORK**

Dear George: I'm checking everything I need to give me the kind of body

I want: ☐ I want to gain ..... lbs. (All in).

☐ I want to add inches of muscle to my ☐ Arms ☐ Chest ☐ Legs ☐ Shoulders  
☐ I want to become a winning athlete ☐ I want NEW PEP, NEW ENERGY  
☐ I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.

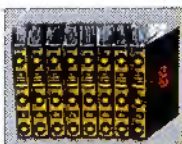
Also please mail to me **FREE** Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses, now all in 1 volume. ENCLOSED FIND 10¢ FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING.

Name ..... AGE .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....





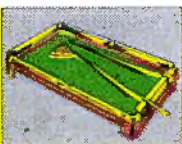
8-Vol. Encyclopedia



Movie Projector



Complete Fishing Outfit



Pool Table Set



Big-3 Hunting Set



Croquet Set



Berwin Typewriter



Mark XII Flash Camera



Wrist Watches



4 Daisy Air Rifles



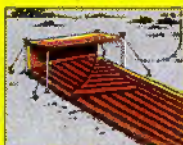
Girls Travel Case



Pup Tent



Major League Glove



Sleeping Bag



Full String Guitar



Complete Archery Set



Pocket Radio



Chemcraft Lab.



3-Speed Bicycle



Basketball &amp; Goal



# MAKE MONEY

# GET PRIZES

## with Fast Selling American Seeds

Take your choice of these wonderful prizes. They can be yours—quickly, easily. Many prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given WITHOUT COST for selling just one 48-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 15c a pack. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money as explained in the Big Prize Book.

### Send NO MONEY, We Trust You

Everybody wants American Seeds. They're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day. You can too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep \$2.40 for every 48-pack order you sell. Mail coupon today for your first order of American Seeds and Big Prize Book—give the other coupon to a friend.

### AMERICAN SEED CO.

Dept. 104  
Lancaster, Pa.  
OUR 43rd YEAR



### MAIL ONE COUPON TODAY Give the Other to a Friend

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 104 F, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 48 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 15c a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 104 F, Lancaster, Pa.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

### EXTRA! WIN A GRAND AWARD in our \$1800.00 PROMPTNESS CONTEST

You have an opportunity to win an RCA Victor TV Set, a Motor Powered Speedmobile, Stereo Record Player or \$100.00 in cash. Information sent with Big Prize Book and Seeds. Be prompt! Mail coupon now!



RCA VICTOR TV

MOTOR POWERED  
SPEEDMOBILE

STEREO HI-FI RECORD PLAYER



\$100 IN CASH